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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1988

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Kuwait lifts ban on Coca-Cola

KUWAIT yesterday joined three other Gulf Arab states in lifting a 21-year-old ban on Coca-Cola despite an Arab decision to keep it on a blacklist for its dealings with Israel.

A decree by Kuwait's Boycott of Israel Office, published yesterday in the official gazette, Kuwait Al Youm, said the ban was lifted after the US-based firm "proved its good intentions and promised not to make proscribed relations with Israel in the future."

It did not elaborate on what commitments Coca-Cola had made. US law forbids co-operation with the boycott.

A spokesman for the boycott headquarters in Damascus said yesterday Coca-Cola, the world's largest manufacturer of carbonated beverages, was still on the blacklist.

Dominated

But implementation of central office decisions are left to individual governments, and Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have already unilaterally lifted the ban.

The soft drink market in the Gulf, worth an estimated \$800 million a year, is dominated by Coca-Cola's rival Pepsi.

Coca-Cola has been barred from most Arab states because of its bottling plant in Israel.

A plant licensed by Coca-Cola has already opened in Oman and others are planned in Bahrain and the UAE city of Al Ain.

Asked earlier this year about attitudes of the Gulf states, a boycott spokesman in Damascus said the decision to keep the firm on the blacklist had been made unanimously, with Gulf states participating. He expressed concern that boycott decisions were not being respected.

'Loya Jirga'

QUETTA, Pakistan, Sept. 18, (Reuters): An Afghan rebel leader accused the United Nations of trying to force an unworkable government on Afghanistan.

Radical rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, speaking at a news conference, said UN mediator Diego Cordovez was trying to impose an unworkable government by a "Loya Jirga", the traditional tribal decision-making assembly.

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اخبار من العالم

• برلين: قوى انقلاب اورطوگراف
• افغانستان: جوي فورج نے اقتدار
• سبھال لیا
• میکسیکو: سنڈی موران کی بھاری
• پاکستان: نئے بین الاقوامی کرکٹ
• اوپن اس کا بایا کلاٹ کرے
• پراگ: ایم
• آسٹریلیا: کپتان داد کی پیشکش
• مکتوب پاکستان

WEATHER

TEMPERATURES will be above normal with light variable to north easterly wind.
State of sea: slight
High water: 6.30 pm
Low water: 11.00 am, 10.30 pm
Sunrise: 5.35 am
Sunset: 5.48 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 41°C 106°F
Ahmad: 37°C 99°F
Faisal: 37°C 99°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 41°C 106°F
Ahmad: 37°C 99°F
Faisal: 37°C 99°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 28 per cent
Ahmad: 28 per cent
Faisal: 28 per cent
Maximum humidity expected:
Kuwait: 30 per cent
Ahmad: 30 per cent
Faisal: 30 per cent

Shooting breaks out as people defy curfew

Army takes over power in Burma

RANGOON, Sept. 18, (Agencies): The military seized control of Burma today to save the single-party government pushed to the brink of collapse by months of demonstrations by millions of people demanding democracy and an end to authoritarian rule.

Defence Minister Gen. Saw Maung, who is also Burma's Chief-of-Staff, took over power dissolving the month-old government of Prime Minister Maung Maung, slapped a curfew on Rangoon and banned all public gatherings of more than five people.

"In order to timely halt the deteriorating conditions on all sides all over the country and for the sake of the interests of the people, the defence forces have assumed all power in the state with effect from today," Saw Maung said in an announcement on state-run Radio Rangoon.

Defiance

Angry crowds armed with Molotov cocktails, swords, pitchforks and slingshots gathered in downtown Rangoon in defiance of the government orders, and students and young workers vowed to fight the military takeover.

A Western diplomat said shooting broke out near the Sule Pagoda in central Rangoon and in some outlying areas, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Witnesses said truckloads of soldiers moved into the campus of Rangoon University, a hotbed of unrest, while other troops were reported surrounding Rangoon General Hospital and a Buddhist temple believed to be harbouring Army deserters.

Heavy gunfire and explosions were heard throughout Rangoon late tonight.

A Western ambassador said he

heard heavy automatic weapons fire near his home in the centre of the city. A military attaché said he heard the booms of recoilless rifles.

Groups of students, in the forefront of months of anti-government protests, gathered at several points around the city, some yelling: "We are not cowards, we will fight."

A Western visitor to the city said he saw crowds gathering at several points in the city, including the US embassy, and the General Hospital — where doctors and nurses were shot down by troops in August.

The chanting students were armed with jinglers — sharpened bicycle spokes — spears, swords and machetes, an eyewitness said.

Barricades

"The feeling on the streets is very ugly," he said.

Large trees were being felled by students to block roads. Electric wires were being snapped as the trees went down.

Other barricades were being erected with concrete blocks.

For months the opposition has feared the possibility of a false coup in which the Army's top officers, stalwarts of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP), would pretend to topple the party's embattled leaders only to maintain the military-backed socialist system.

After months of mass demonstrations against the government and strikes in every industry, service and state department, the government agreed last week to hold multi-party elections and on Friday formally severed the links between the Army and the party.

The opposition rejected these concessions and continued to press for its ultimate aim, the resignations of the BSPP government. It wanted an interim

(Continued on Page 2)



A Burmese demonstrator kicks the foot of a soldier during street protests in Rangoon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shamir rejects Shultz' criticism

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Sept. 18, (AP): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today that the Israeli government does not accept US Secretary of State George Shultz' criticism of Israeli policies in the occupied lands.

Shamir's comments came on the day designated by leaders of the Palestinian uprising for "confronting the occupation with force to protest the massacres being committed against our people."

The call by the uprising's PLO-linked leaders followed a general strike yesterday as Palestinians marked the sixth anniversary of the massacre of their brethren by Israeli-supported Christian militiamen in Lebanon.

Violence

Israeli soldiers shot and killed two Palestinians yesterday in violence described by the Israeli media as the most widespread and intense in several weeks.

Most of the clashes were in the West Bank, where more than 30 Palestinians, many of them young teenagers, were wounded by Israeli Army gunfire.

Security sources said soldiers shot dead a 17-year-old Imad Arkamwi in the town of Jenin.

The Army clamped a curfew on 250,000 Arabs in the occupied Gaza Strip yesterday. The Army claimed they arrested over 100 alleged Arab ringleaders in the occupied West Bank.

Shamir said today on Israel Radio that Shultz' last night's speech in Washington contained what he termed "a certain criticism of the means used by us ... against the rioters."

Shamir acknowledged that Israel and the United States disagreed over the means Israel employs to quell Arab protests, but noted that Shultz "recognises the right and the duty of the Israeli government to impose order and restore security in these territories."

"As to the means, we use the means we see as appropriate," he said.

Control

Shultz urged Israel to end its military control of the occupied lands and allow the Palestinians to take charge of their lives. He also sharply criticised suggestions by extreme right-wing groups in Israel to deport or "transfer" 1.5 million Arabs of the occupied territories to Arab countries.

"What he (Shultz) said ... on transfer is criticism against the (Israeli) government. The government does not accept it," Shamir said.

Christians reject US-Syrian accord

BEIRUT, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Syria and the United States were reported today to have agreed a candidate for the Lebanese presidency but Christian leaders in Lebanon rejected the accord.

The Christian leaders said they could not accept a head of state imposed by foreign powers, raising the prospect of increased tension between Lebanon's heavily armed rival groups. (See Page 3)

Explosion blows up Airbus engine

By Jadranka Porter

AN explosion rocked an Egypt Air Airbus yesterday after its left engine blew up just as the aircraft was about to take off from Kuwait's International Airport, according to an airport source.

No one was injured. The passengers were evacuated and taken to the Transit Hotel.

The source ruled out sabotage, saying that the explosion was

caused by a technical problem. The nearly full airliner was about to take off at noon on a scheduled flight to Cairo.

When the engine exploded the pilot slammed the brakes, shredding the tyres. Within minutes fire brigade engines reached the scene and extinguished the flames in the engine.

The Airbus, owned by Kuwait Airways, is currently on lease to Egypt Air.

Arabs are not pressuring Iraq to make concessions

CAIRO, Sept. 18, (Agencies): Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz insisted today that Arab states were not pressuring his government to make concessions in peace talks with Iran.

"Talking about Arab pressures is only wishful thinking," he told reporters after a meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, one of Iraq's staunch backers in the eight-year war.

"Arabs are supporting Iraq during war and peace because of its legitimate and just position. We are happy for this backing," Aziz added.

Rights

Talks between Iraq and Iran stalled in Geneva last week over navigation rights in the Gulf and an Iraqi demand that dredging of the Shatt Al Arab waterway take priority. The talks are due to resume in New York on Sept. 22.

Aziz, who arrived in Egypt yesterday, said negotiations to end the war would be long and difficult.

"Iranians needed 10 years to discover they lived in the 20th century ... It took them eight years to discover that peace is the best way to live."

"The Iranians may need several weeks to realise that negotiation is not a game but a responsibility we all must shoulder," he said.

He said.

Both Iraq and Iran have accused each other of stalling the peace talks which opened on Aug. 25, five days after a UN-brokered ceasefire went into effect.

Clearing

Aziz said: "We found the Iranian side unprepared to honour its ceasefire commitments regarding navigation in the Gulf and clearing the Shatt Al Arab waterway."

"The feuding factions in Iran are trying to use the slow pace of the negotiations to shirk their commitments."

He added: "This is a game which we confronted firmly in Geneva and which we will confront firmly in the future."

"Peace is commitment."

"If Iraq shows commitment, then Iran must display a similar commitment or else it will be held responsible before its people and the whole world."

Specialists from Britain and Switzerland will attend a week-long conference convened by Iraq to discuss rehabilitation of war victims maimed in the conflict with Iran.

The conference, opening on Sept. 22, will focus on psychological and clinical rehabilitation of the handicapped.

Iraq resettling Kurds

DUHOUK, Iraq, Sept. 18, (Agencies): Iraq has emptied at least 200 villages near the Iranian border in Iraqi Kurdistan and transferred thousands of Kurds to other areas, according to the governor of the Kurdish town of Duhok.

Namur Raqib Al Souchi told reporters yesterday that the evacuation of the villagers fell within the Baghdad government's decision to establish a "red line" along the 1,200-km (740-mile) border with Iran.

He said the process started several years ago and had been completed in his governorate. He did not know how many villages were affected in the other two governorates of the autonomous region of Kurdistan.

Invitation

Reporters touring the area by helicopter at the invitation of the Iraqi Information Ministry saw several villages which had been reduced to rubble. The area was until recently beyond the reach of even the Army.

Defence Minister General Adnan Kheirallah said on Thursday that, because of Iraq's experiences in the war against Iran, no one would be allowed to live beyond the red line, 10 to 20 km (six to 12 miles) inside the border.

During the war, Iranian-backed Kurdish rebels would often force their way into remote Iraqi border villages to get food and shelter.

Souchi told reporters the aim of the evacuation was to improve the living conditions of Kurds, since the government could not maintain services to widely-scattered small villages.

"The majority of the villagers were willing to be moved to better places. They were compensated for their old houses," he said.

He said the villagers were given free plots of land and loans to build homes in new housing complexes supplied with clean water, electricity and health services.

Their old houses were being destroyed so that no one else would be able to try to live in them, he said.

India seals border

NEW DELHI, Sept. 18, (KUNA): India has sealed its border with Pakistan along the line of actual control in Kashmir and Ladakh region to minimise armed infiltration, according to a top military official.

Corps Commander Lt. General D. S. R. Sahni told reporters in Srinagar that there was no need for alarm as the Army was on alert to face any eventuality.

Sahni said exchange of fire between India and Pakistan on the strategic Siachen glacier had been continuing intermittently.

Patrolling on the borders has been intensified during the past fortnight, he said.

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Irina Chilova displays her gold medal.

Soviet girl wins first Olympic gold medal

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Irina Chilova of the Soviet Union upset the form book to win the women's air rifle event and the first gold medal of the Seoul Olympics today.

The 28-year-old sports instructor scored 498.5 points to edge out a jubilant Silvia Sperber of West Germany who took the silver with 497.5. Anna Maloukhina, also of the Soviet Union, won the bronze with 495.8.

World champion Vessela Letcheva of Bulgaria, European champion Eva Joo of Hungary and the great US hope Deena Wigger all failed to make the cut for the last eight shooters.

Letcheva, the firm favourite and joint world record holder, walked sadly from the Taenung shooting range after dropping 11 points in the first four rounds, leaving her well down the field.

Asked what went wrong, she shook her head and said: "I don't know, I don't know."

MEDALS TABLE

Medals table on the second day of the Olympics (tabulate under gold, silver, bronze):	
Soviet Union	1 0 2
East Germany	1 0 0
Romania	1 0 0
China	1 0 1
Bulgaria	1 0 0
Sweden	0 1 1
United States	0 1 1
Poland	0 1 0
West Germany	0 1 0
South Korea	0 1 0

750 detained

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Police arrested 750 people in anti-gang sweeps through parts of Los Angeles during the weekend, but two people were killed and five wounded in suspected gangland shootings.

A 16-year-old boy was shot dead in an alley and a 19-year-old youth was killed and a friend wounded in a burst of gunfire from a passing car, police said.

DAY BY DAY

THE multitude of people gathering around the Seoul Olympic Games would certainly have been termed "classic" had there been no wars and skirmishes in the world.

A record number of people from 160 nations of the world will cheer the spectacular display of activities, colour and the diversity of the gatherings.

We saw the missions from the USSR with the USA, Sri Lanka with India, Iraq with Iran and others.

It would certainly have been more poignant if world leaders were together, giving their personal attention to the sports activities at hand.

If world leaders could have a meeting like the one of the Olympic Games at Seoul where they could run, swim and play together, the world would be a far better place.

Industries would prosper, mistrust would be lessened and the debts of the Third World would be alleviated.

But as it has always been — personal relations could lead to wars and eventual destruction or to smiles and happiness all around.

Zahed Matar

INTERNATIONAL

Dukakis accuses Bush of inconsistency on the issue of oil drilling

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18, (AP): Democrat Michael Dukakis ridiculed Republican George Bush's claim to be an environmentalist, accusing the Vice-President yesterday of inconsistency on the issue of offshore oil drilling.

Dukakis told campaign workers in Anaheim, California, he would elevate the US environmental protection agency to a cabinet-level department.

"The First Secretary of the environment is going to be as committed to protecting the environment as George Bush has been to neglecting it," Dukakis said.

Dismantle

Dukakis was attacking Bush on one of the issues the Republican presidential nominee has staked out for himself, having declared last month at an appearance in Michigan that he was a lifelong environmentalist.

Dukakis accused Bush of standing by and doing nothing while President Reagan's administration tried to dismantle a US programme for cleaning up toxic

wastes. He also said Bush has "done more somersaults than an Olympic gymnast" on the question of offshore oil drilling.

On Saturday, Bush wooed the immigrant vote often sought by Dukakis, who seldom fails to mention his Greek-born parents.

Bush spoke to a group of 174 new citizens from 62 countries at a naturalization ceremony in Washington. The event commemorated the 201st anniversary of the signing of the US constitution.

"We Americans have always thought of ourselves as special, as a light shining out to the world," Bush told the new citizens after they were given the oath of citizenship.

Bush's remarks were low-key and non-partisan, but the event gave him a chance to appear before television cameras flanked by the American flag and a replica of the Liberty Bell.

Bush was picked to win the presidency by voters who were asked to set aside their political preferences and predict the election day winner, according to a poll released by the magazine US News and World Report.

Mexico begins recovery from Gilbert

160 feared dead as four buses washed away

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Mexico began recovering today from the fury of hurricane Gilbert, which left it with up to 240 dead, some 200,000 homeless and millions of dollars in damage to buildings and crops.

The century's most powerful hurricane blew itself out in the hills below the northern city of Monterrey, which was lashed from early yesterday by heavy winds, rains and flash floods.

After a week-long journey across the Caribbean, Gilbert killed as many as 330 people and left hundreds of thousands without homes.

Floodwaters

In Monterrey, Mexico's third largest city with a population of 2.5 million, 60 were killed by floodwaters and it was feared that 160 more may have died after four buses were washed away. Nuevo Leon state governor Jorge Trevino said.

Six of those who died were policemen, swept away while trying to rescue passengers on the buses stranded by rising waters of the Santa Catarina River.

Jacinto Andrade Velazquez, a surviving passenger of one of the buses, said police had been trying to get near on a heavy excavator when the current flipped in over and carried it away.

Trevino declared Monterrey a disaster zone. Six rivers burst their banks.

Damages

Trevino said that in addition to the bus fatalities, 40 people had died in Monterrey and 20 more were missing and feared dead.

One volunteer rescuer at the site of the bus accident said on local radio he had been carried

five km (three miles) by the river before he could reach the banks.

"Just as rescue work began, rising winds and water made it impossible to continue and the river washed the buses away," said Oscar Aboites, a Monterrey Red Cross worker.

Gilbert killed 30 others in the rest of Mexico, including 21 on the Yucatan peninsula where it struck on Wednesday with winds up to 200 miles per hour (321 KPH).

Quintana Roo governor Miguel Borje said damages were estimated at \$500 million in the popular beach resort of Cancun, where as many as 5,000 American tourists were evacuated.

Gilbert re-entered Mexican territory late Friday at the small fishing village of La Pesca, and not as previously expected at the Texan border town of Brownsville.

The hurricane then moved inland, losing force until it was downgraded to a tropical storm as it hit Monterrey.

In its terrifying passage across the Caribbean, Gilbert left a toll of 65 dead and vast damage to homes and property. In Jamaica alone at least 30 died and 500,000 were made homeless amid damages estimated at \$7 billion.

Rescue

Torrential rains triggered by the hurricane killed 16 people in Guatemala, six in Honduras and at least five in northern Nicaragua. Thousands were left homeless.

In Tamaulipas state, where Gilbert entered Mexico for the second time, three people died including two who were on their way to La Pesca to help in rescue operations.

Help Mozambique, appeals Pope

MAPUTO, Mozambique, Sept. 18, (UPI): Pope John Paul II appealed to the world today to help war-ravaged Mozambique in a mass before some 50,000 people televised live in Europe, South America and Canada.

Celebrating the last papal mass of his 10-day trip to the so-called frontline states of Mozambique, Swaziland, Lesotho, Botswana and Zimbabwe bordering South Africa, the Pontiff declared, "peace if for everyone or is not for anyone."

He called on Mozambicans to follow "the path of dialogue for reconciliation" that would "end the shedding of the blood of brothers and purify the atmosphere of hatred and the lack of love."

John Paul is scheduled to meet later today with visiting British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, who announced yesterday Britain will give Mozambique \$50 million, half of which is intended for reconstruction of the strategic Limpopo railway, damaged during the country's 13-year civil war with right-wing guerrillas.

The war in Marxist-ruled Mozambique has killed one million people and pushed four million close to starvation and some 900,000 others have fled to neighbouring countries, according to relief agency and church estimates.

Doves

Schoolchildren released balloons and three doves symbolising justice, peace and love during the mass and a 600-voice choir sang a specially composed song on the last stop on the Pope's journey that included the repeated refrain "Long live John Paul II."

"In asking of God that he continues to open horizons of hope for this region, I think also of the entire international community," the Pope said.

"The ever great consciousness



A pigeon released by children during the papal visit to Mozambique, found a good perch on the head of a Mozambican priest. (Reuters wirephoto)

of interdependence between men and peoples as positive and moral values must overcome the obstacles to solidarity that are not only of an economic and political order... here I renew my appeal for world solidarity for Mozambique."

Earlier in the day, the Pope offered \$50,000 to the patients at Maputo Central Hospital, the

largest health unit in Mozambique, where he spoke with 35 victims of the war, including three children.

"I feel very close to you, to all those who suffer, in the body and in the spirit for their loss of health," the Pope said in his message. "I suffer because you are suffering and because it is not in my power to cure you."

UK expels diplomat over parking fines

LONDON, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Britain has expelled a Tunisian diplomat for refusing to settle parking fines. The first time it has ordered out a diplomat on such a charge, a government minister wrote in a Sunday newspaper.

Junior Foreign Office Minister Timothy Eggar wrote in The Mail on Sunday: "We say: 'Pay up or get out.' Until recently, they all did. Last month, one tried to call our bluff. He was expelled."

Sadok Kassous, an administrative attaché, was the first diplomat Britain has expelled for amassing unpaid parking tickets. The newspaper said his fines totalled hundreds of pounds.

Respect

"When I parked outside the embassy, it was a matter of principle not to pay," Kassous told the newspaper from his home in Tunisia. "I have no regrets. I was

asked to leave and I respect the policies of your government."

Eggar also wrote, he will summon senior foreign ambassadors to the Foreign Office next week to warn them their staffs must obey the law, after three diplomats were expelled for firearms offences.

"I will... stress again the need for them to ensure that every last member of the diplomatic corps meets the strict standards we demand of them," he added.

Shooting

He defended last week's expulsion of the Cuban ambassador and a commercial attaché after a shooting incident in London.

"In any case like this, a country's ambassador must bear the responsibility and all ambassadors in London have been left in no doubt that their staff may not carry, let alone use, firearms," Eggar said.

Solidarity's return is very near: Walesa

CZESTOCHOWA, Poland, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Lech Walesa told tens of thousands of cheering Polish workers today that the Solidarity free trade union would very soon be restored to legal existence.

"Solidarity is very near," Walesa declared from the ramparts of the Jasna Gora monastery, Poland's holiest shrine, to crowds standing beneath hundreds of Solidarity banners.

Workers replied by chanting "There is no freedom without Solidarity," waving red and white banners with the union's logo and raising their arms in V-for-victory signs.

Walesa won an assurance at talks with Poland's communist rulers on Friday that Solidarity, which they suppressed under martial law in 1981, had a place in the country's life.

NEWS IN BRIEF

US invitation

MIAMI, Sept. 18, (AP): Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega says he has received two recent messages from the US government inviting him to resume bilateral talks that collapsed in May, a newspaper reported today.

Gen. Noriega said he sees the alleged overtures as a "positive step" and added that his government is ready to start "serious" and "realistic" negotiations immediately, according to the Miami Herald report from Panama.

Turin shroud

LONDON, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Scientists have determined that the holy shroud of Turin, which some Christians revere as Jesus Christ's burial cloth, is a medieval fake, the Sunday Times reported.

The British newspaper said the scientists, whom it did not identify, confirmed that tests on samples of the relic showed it was forged between the years 1800 and 1500.

Army takes over

(Continued from Page 1)

administration to lead the country to democracy.

Saw Maung scrapped the cabinet, Parliament, and all government bodies, including state, divisional, township and village councils.

He announced in his place a new ruling body, the 19-member "organisation for building law and order in the state," with himself as chairman.

Most of the 19 members of the ruling military group are brigadiers or major generals.

Diplomats have said Saw Maung has made his career through close ties to long-time ruler Ne Win and his successor Sein Lwin, forced to resign after 19 days.

Protests

Ne Win seized power in a 1962 coup that led to the formation of the BSPP and held onto it until rising protests forced him to formally resign in July. He is still believed to have the final word in the setting of BSPP policy.

Sein Lwin followed Ne Win in office and it was he who ordered soldiers to open fire on protesters in August. Sein Lwin's bloody rule lasted just 15 days as hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets for every person who was killed.

He was followed in office by Maung Maung, who was ousted today.

Feared

Ne Win and Sein Lwin have been incommunicado since formally stepping aside.

The number two man in the military government is Lieutenant General Than Shwe, described by an analyst of Burmese affairs as "a ruthless field commander who is more feared than respected by his subordinates."

The Army said an election commission appointed by the BSPP last week would run polls after order was restored in the country.

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INTERNATIONAL

ARAB TIMES, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1988

Resolving Lebanese crisis

US, Syria agree on presidential candidate

BEIRUT, Sept. 18, (Reuters): US envoy Richard Murphy lobbied Lebanese leaders today after reaching agreement with Syria on a compromise candidate for Lebanon's postponed presidential election, politicians said.

They said the two sides agreed "in principle" that Mikhael Dahar was now the front-runner to win the vote due to be taken by Parliament on Sept. 22, one day before President Amin Gemayel's six-year term expires.

Although the parliamentary ballot is secret, the vote is effectively the result of a consensus between Syria and the United States, the two outside powers wielding most influence over rival Lebanese groups vying to impose their own candidates.

The names of Manuel Younis and Michel Edde, both moderates, were also on a list of possible candidates carried by Murphy to acting Prime Minister Selim Al Hoss, House Speaker Hussein Husseini and Gemayel, the politicians said.

Murphy, who met Syrian

President Hafez Al Assad during five days of talks with Syrian leaders in Damascus aimed at resolving the Lebanese constitutional crisis, arrived in Lebanon today.

Asked if a vote would be held on time, Murphy said: "You can say that I am optimistic."

The poll was postponed last month because many Christian deputies boycotted Parliament to thwart the election of Syrian-backed former President Suleiman Franjeh.

Dahar, 60, a deputy from northern Lebanon, is a personal friend of Franjeh and advocates a strong Syrian role in Lebanon.

The reported US-Syrian accord has yet to be blessed by Gemayel and the hardline Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, which fiercely opposes Syria's military and political power in the country.

But one independent politician said: "Even if the militia opposes the election of Dahar, it cannot afford to

boycott a contender backed by the United States. It would not like to be responsible for the negative repercussions."

Sources close to Hoss quoted him as saying after meeting Murphy: "The most important thing is that we will have a presidential election and this is something very positive because Lebanon will be driven into an abyss if there are no polls."

A pro-Syrian politician said Murphy's talks had eased fears among many Lebanese leaders that a power vacuum would cause a fresh upsurge of violence in the 13-year-old civil war and lead to further partitioning of the country.

If no president is chosen by Friday, Gemayel could form a Christian-led administration to replace the cabinet headed by Hoss, but this might prompt pro-Syrian Muslims and leftist groups to break away.

A pro-Syrian politician said that Franjeh, who met Assad in Damascus to discuss the out-



Husseini greets Murphy (right) before holding talks in Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

come of Murphy's talks there, might soon withdraw his candidacy in favour of Dahar.

Independent sources said Murphy had expressed reservations about Dahar when he met Syrian and Lebanese officials in August on his first mediating

mission. But they said Syria, a major power broker in Lebanon where it has about 25,000 troops, had now given guarantees to Murphy to help to secure the release of the 10 American hostages held in the country by pro-Iranian

militants. Syria, a major ally of Tehran, has in the past used its influence to help to gain the release of Western hostages. In return, it has sought the support of Western states in recognising its role in Lebanon.

Diseases spreading fast in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Sept. 18, (Agencies): Pneumonia and eye and skin diseases have broken out in Bangladesh in the aftermath of floods, doctors and officials have said.

"Over 3,500 medical teams working in the flooded areas are not fully equipped to handle these new diseases," said one Health Ministry official. "Most of them are not carrying enough medicines for these ailments."

The floods, which inundated about 80 per cent of the country, have claimed 953 lives, according to government figures. Newspapers put the toll in excess of 2,000.

The government's figures include 211 deaths from diarrhoea, caused by the disruption of pure water supplies when floodwaters washed away pumps and wells. Most of the other deaths were drownings, and lesser number resulted from snake bites.

Annual Flooding is an annual disaster in Bangladesh, where the 110 million people earn an average per capita income of \$150 per year. Last year, floods during the monsoon season killed at least 1,500 people.

One doctor in Dhaka said an "unusually large number" of patients from flood-affected areas are suffering from eye ailments and skin diseases.

"The daily average of such cases has increased four- to six-fold in the last one week," said Dr Abdur Rahman. "A week or 10 days back, the daily average of such patients was about 10. Now it is between 50 and 60 every day."

At least 51,792 cases of diarrhoea have been reported from flooded areas, where victims

were unable to boil their water. Government efforts to bring water-purification tablets to the countryside have been unsuccessful.

Reports of the disease outbreaks come as the levels of major rivers begin to drop.

"By next Friday, most of the water will recede, except from the low-lying areas close to the rivers," said one official at the flood control centre.

The floods have inundated 53 of the country's 64 districts. But government efforts to get relief to an estimated 40 million people have been hampered by lack of communications and resources.

Many outlying areas remain inaccessible by road and there is little dry land for the few helicopters to land. But resumption last Friday of rail traffic between Dhaka, and Chittagong, was expected to boost relief work.

Inadequate Officials said supplies of fresh food and medicine from the government and voluntary agencies were inadequate to meet demand.

"They are just a drop in the sea," one relief official said. "The situation may have already run out of control despite all efforts."

Municipal authorities in Dhaka have forced thousands of homeless families to leave relief camps because they were unable to feed them.

"We are mobilising all our strength and resources to face the calamity, but it is not enough," President Hussain Muhammad Ershad told flood victims in eastern Brahmanbaria district.

"I urge the countries of the region to launch a joint effort and find a permanent solution to the flood problem," he said.

Sudanese rebels hamper government relief efforts

KHARTOUM, Sept. 18, (AP): Southern Sudanese rebels have been obstructing relief supplies from reaching Juba, the capital of the famine-stricken Equatoria province, Mauris Lawya, the province's governor was quoted on Saturday as saying.

In a statement to the Sudanese daily Al Nahar, Lawya said attacks by the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army during the past few days forced a convoy of 912 trucks to return back to Yie, 120

kms northwest of Juba. He said the convoy was escorted by the Army.

Lawya also said that only 96 out of 1,080 supply trucks from neighbouring Uganda were able to make the journey to Juba because of such attacks.

Ignoring a rebel warning against overlying south Sudan, Lawya said 150 tons of food could be flown to Juba later this week.

PLO has no links with IRA, says official

LONDON, Sept. 18, (KUNA): The PLO has reiterated that it has no links with the Irish Republican Army (IRA) and does not support the IRA campaign of violence in Northern Ireland.

Faisal Oweida, the PLO representative in London told the Sunday Times newspaper that the "main barrier" to any relations with the outlawed group was "their use of force within a democratic society."

"In Ireland you have the right to vote and to be elected so we are not with the violence of the IRA," he insisted.

The paper recalled that last week in the European Parliament the PLO chairman Yasser Arafat made it clear that he wanted nothing to do with them.

His snub followed a year of setbacks for the IRA's drive to improve its international relations with the Eastern bloc countries, the African National Congress and other foreign liberation and guerrilla groups, the weekly noted.

Iran to debate appointment of ministers

NICOSIA, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Iran's parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said today the appointment of six new ministers to the government would be debated by the Majlis (parliament) on Tuesday.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Rafsanjani had been handed a list of six candidates for the vacant ministerial posts by Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi.

Three of those named are replacements for ministers sacked during a parliamentary reshuffle last week, described by political analysts as a blow to Mousavi.

Mousavi had earlier submitted his resignation because of problems in Parliament but it was rejected by Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

Those nominated in place of the ousted ministers were Ali Shamkhani to head the Revolutionary Guards, Eysa Kalantari as Agriculture Minister and Mohammad Ali Najafi as Education Minister.

Israel silent on plans to launch spy satellite

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Israel declined to comment on reports today it was about to launch a space rocket in a bid to become the first Middle East country with a spy satellite.

Cabinet Secretary Eliyakim Rubinstein said after a cabinet meeting he had no knowledge of reports that Israel had built a spy satellite and a rocket capable of putting it into space.

The reports were the top story in Israeli newspapers and on state-owned Israel Radio, which routinely quote foreign reports when military censors bar them from publishing what they know from Israeli sources.

Rubinstein told reporters the government did not discuss the matter but he declined to say whether the policy-making 10-man inner cabinet decided to launch the rocket when it met earlier today.

Israeli newspapers quoted the British magazine Flight International as saying Israel would launch a spy satellite because the United States, its closest ally, had refused to transfer some of its own satellite data.

They quoted unnamed foreign sources as saying the 10-man inner cabinet would decide on the launch.

"I'm not informed of the subject at all," Rubinstein told reporters.

Jerusalem was awash with

rumours of an imminent launch but spokesmen for the Defence and Foreign Ministries and the Prime Minister's Office would not comment.

The US news magazine Time reported four weeks ago that Israel was on the verge of launching a spy satellite, the Shavit (Hebrew for comet), into low earth orbit after secretly firing a medium-range missile into the Mediterranean last May.

Test But space experts said Israel would have to test its booster rocket several times before using it to launch an operational satellite.

Low earth orbit satellites are of limited reconnaissance use because they provide pictures of a target area only twice a day. Modern US and Soviet intelligence satellites are in so-called geostationary high orbit, hovering permanently above the target to be observed.

Citing unnamed intelligence sources, Time said the Israeli cabinet had only to set a launch date to become the eighth country known to possess a rocket powerful enough to lift a satellite into orbit.

According to foreign reports, Israel in May tested a medium-range missile codenamed Jericho-2 capable of carrying nuclear warheads over a range of 900 nautical miles.

Tamil Tigers may use scare tactics to disrupt elections

COLOMBO, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Marxist Tamil rebels who have crippled civil administration in north and east Sri Lanka may disrupt elections for a new provincial council expected in November, according to local residents.

The LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) doesn't like elections and 99 per cent will not vote because of that," said a prominent trader in Vavuniya district. "I will not vote."

"We expect the LTTE to appeal to people not to vote and the people will obey them," said A. Adakalanathan, leader of another Tamil group.

The Tigers, Sri Lanka's largest Tamil separatist group, have used scare tactics to bring the north and east of the island nation to its knees since January. "The militants are still so powerful here that they can do anything," said an episcopalian

priest in Vavuniya. "Although people don't say they are supporting the LTTE, they actually do."

Tamils, comprising 13 per cent of the island's 16 million Sinhalese-dominated population, want to carve their own homeland from the two areas where they are in the majority.

Indian High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit said yesterday Indian troops would provide security during the elections to a semi-autonomous provincial council, which would allow Tamils to run their own affairs.

The elections are expected in early November. The voting is stipulated under a Sri Lankan-Indian pact signed in July 1987 to end the Tamil-Sinhalese conflict that has claimed more than 9,000 lives since 1983. At least 52,000 Indian soldiers were sent to northern and eastern Sri Lanka to enforce

the pact.

After ceasefire talks broke down last month, India launched its biggest offensive this year against the Tigers.

"The LTTE is in disarray and their communication network has been weakened," a military observer said.

"But ... they'll come back," he added.

Free

In a separate development, a senior official said today the Sri Lankan government will soon free high-ranking members of a Marxist Sinhalese group blamed for killing about 420 people.

The official said the move was to restore peace in the Southern Province, where the People's Liberation Front (JVP) draws most of its members.

He did not give details on how many would be released. About 900 JVP members are believed to be in custody.

270 die in clashes in W. Sahara

RABAT, Sept. 18, (Reuters): A two-hour battle between Moroccan soldiers and Polisario guerrillas in the Western Sahara left 270 casualties on both sides, Morocco said on Saturday.

The armed forces command, which rarely comments on fighting with the guerrillas, said 51 Moroccan soldiers were killed and 95 wounded in the battle in the Oum Dreiga sector of Morocco's defence wall on Friday.

The Polisario Front suffered 124 casualties, the command said in a statement.

The Polisario raid was the first reported fighting since Morocco and Polisario agreed in principle at the start of September to UN peace proposals to end the 12-year war for control over the Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony largely occupied by Morocco.

Ceasefire The plan calls for a ceasefire and a referendum offering the inhabitants of the sparsely populated region a choice between independence or integration with Morocco.

The Polisario has linked the ceasefire with a demand to enter direct negotiations with Rabat. Morocco does not recognise the guerrillas and has rejected the demand.

The communique did not mention the fate of a Moroccan commander, Colonel Abdel Salam Al Abidi. Polisario said he had been captured in battle and died later of his wounds.

A Polisario statement carried by the official Algerian Press Agency (APS) said the front was willing to hand over Abidi's body to the Moroccan government.

Nudists conference

BELGRADE, Sept. 18, (AP): Some 500 nudists from 21 countries gathered in the northern Adriatic resort of Rovinj on the Istrian peninsula yesterday for the opening of the 21st congress of the International Naturists Federation, the news agency Tanjug reported.

The INF congress, held in the "Monsena" tourist settlement, includes delegates from 18 European countries, the United States and Canada, as well as Yugoslavia, it said.

The three-day gathering will hold a round-table discussion on "naturism, tourism and leisure time," the agency said.

Greens hope for electoral breakthrough in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Sweden's environmental Green Party hoped for an electoral breakthrough today as the country's 6.3 million voters turned out in a general election.

Three last-minute opinion polls predicted that the ruling Social Democrats would retain power against the challenge of the centre-right opposition.

Predicted But two of the surveys forecast that they would be dependent on the support of the Green Party, which was expected to gain about six per cent of the vote and become the first new party to enter Parliament since 1917.

The polls showed the Social Democrats led by Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson securing between 42 and 45 per cent of the

vote, while their communist allies were expected to gain just enough to pass the four per cent barrier needed to enter Parliament.

Should the communists fail to reach four per cent, the way could conceivably be open for three centre-right parties to gain power. Polls predicted the three — the Conservative, Liberal and Centre parties — would score between 41 and 45 per cent.

In the last election in Sept. 1985, the Social Democrats won 44.7 per cent of the vote and their communist allies 5.4 per cent. The opposition had 45.6 per cent.

A last-minute worry for the Social Democrats was Carlsson's lacklustre performance in a televised debate between party leaders on Friday night.

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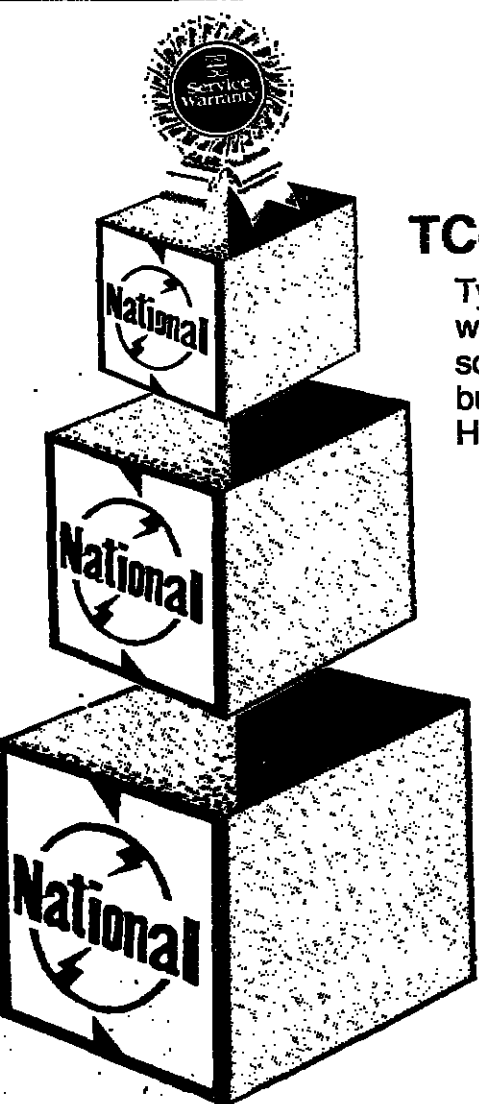


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Omani official calls for regional peace deal

DUBAI, Sept. 18. (Agencies): Regional states in the Gulf need to agree on a peace deal to avoid a possible new outbreak of hostilities, an Omani official said in a newspaper interview published today.

Ibrahim Bin Hamoud Al Subhi, secretary-general of the Higher Conferences' Committee, also urged joint action to safeguard freedom of navigation in the Gulf.

Al Subhi told the Sharjah-based daily Al Khaleej that a peace formula should be based on international law, including mutual respect and non-interference in each other's affairs.

"If the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) states together with Iraq and Iran reached this formula, then I think understanding and dialogue will replace the use of force," he said.

Compensation
Al Subhi said the issue of offering compensations to the two Gulf countries to repair the war ravages is "premature".

"The war has left deep wounds and the first priority is for the negotiators and mediators to restore confidence to the two warring parties," Al Subhi was quoted as saying.

"The issue of compensation also should come within an international perspective and not only within the framework of the

GCC," he added.
The Omani official also reaffirmed a view, long cherished by GCC leaders that the security of the Gulf is the sole responsibility of countries in the region.

"What is required now is a formula for joint action among all countries in the region, including Iraq and Iran to preserve their interests," Al Subhi said.

Spillovers
Al Subhi said Oman, which has maintained friendly relations with both Iraq and Iran throughout the eight-year-old conflict, has acted as a "calming factor" in regional conflicts.

"It (Oman) has succeeded, along with its partners in the Co-operation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC) in keeping the region away from any spillovers in the fighting," Al Subhi said.

He dismissed recent threats by both belligerents as "pressuring or bargaining" tactics.

Subhi said he expected the talks, due to resume in New York on Sept. 22, to take a long time.

"The negotiations will be a long process and will not be easy," he said.

He pointed out that any progress made in the peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran will boost prospects for the withdrawal of foreign fleets from the region.

"These fleets have come under certain circumstances, which when eliminated will also drop the reasons for their continued presence in the Gulf," Al Subhi said.

Al Subhi was named GCC assistant secretary-general for political affairs when the six-nation alliance was established in 1981, nine months after the Iran-Iraq war broke out.

He was recently replaced by Saif Bin Hashil Al Maskari, who said this week the GCC made up of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman and the UAE — would help push forward peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

The Omani official said Oman "always" supported the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

"The issue of (declaring) a Palestinian government in exile or any other decision is something which is left solely to the Palestinian leadership," Al Subhi said. "It should not be taken under any influence."

Al Subhi said Oman has already agreed to open a PLO office in Muscat.

Arabs to discuss power network

DELEGATIONS representing electricity ministries of 12 Arab countries will meet in Kuwait today to discuss linking the 12 Asian Arab countries to Egypt through an electric power network.

The conference, sponsored by the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development, is to examine a feasibility study conducted by the fund in co-operation with the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, Kuwait University and the Saudi King Fahd College of Petroleum and Minerals.

Egypt, given its geographic location in the middle of the Arab world, will later be connected

through a power network with the western Arab countries to act as a link in the chain.

The conference will be the first Arab Fund forum to be attended by Egypt whose membership in the Pan-Arab Fund was suspended in 1979 for making peace with Israel. The fund will finance the power network project.

Delegations to the conference are led by electricity under-secretaries or officials of the same rank. Officials from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, the two Yemens, Egypt and Kuwait will attend the conference.

Three sentenced for liquor trading

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a defendant named Jaddem to five years rigorous imprisonment to be followed by deportation and a fine of KDI.200 on charges of smuggling and trading in liquor.

The court was told that the accused used to smuggle liquor from Iraq by using a car with forged number plates. He used to use Iraqi licence plates when inside Iraq and Kuwaiti plates when entering Kuwait's borders with liquor. The contraband was sold to two Iraqi nationals identified as Abdul Hafez and Karim.

The court sentenced Abdul Hafez and Karim each to three-month jail terms and fined the first KDI300 and the second KDI75 for trading in alcohol. Both of the accused are to be deported after serving their respective sentences.

No new visas for Filipinos

RIYADH, Sept. 18. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia has rebuffed efforts by the Philippines to end an impasse over new work visas for Filipinos, diplomats said today.

Saudi Arabia, which employs some 300,000 Filipinos, unofficially stopped issuing new work visas for expatriate labour from the Philippines in August.

Diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Manila government tried to open talks on the issue but was turned down.

Saudi verdict expected soon in murder trial

RIYADH, Sept. 18. (Reuters): A verdict in the murder trial of a British couple who could be beheaded if convicted of killing an Irish nurse is expected within the next few weeks, Western diplomats said today.

Peter and Monica Hall went on trial last February accused of bludgeoning to death Helen Feeney, 48, of Roscommon county, Ireland, in Taif, Saudi Arabia, on April 16, 1986.

Under Islamic law it is possible for convicted murderers to escape the death penalty if the victim's next-of-kin ask for their lives to be spared.

Feeney's relatives have already said they are prepared to forego the death penalty if the Halls were convicted.

New law to protect coral reefs

A LAW protecting the coral reefs of Kuwait will be issued soon, a local daily quoted Dr Mohammed Saif, director of the Marine Culture and Fisheries Department at the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR), as saying.

The coral reef project financed by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) in co-operation with the Environment Protection Council has just been completed.

The new law will prohibit ships from approaching coral reefs and violators will be subject to penalties, the official said.

Saif said that the strategic plan for developing fish resources considered the demand for the next 20 years. His department will increase the production of Zubaidi, Sheem, Naqour and Sabour fish, he said.

He added that his department is striving to culture some kinds of fish which are currently not available in Kuwait. While marine culture is economically feasible, chances of further reducing the cost of production still exist, he said.

He disclosed that Kuwait is seeking fishing rights from neighbouring countries which enjoy a surplus of fish resources such as the UAE, Oman, South Yemen, Somalia and Djibouti.

3 ferries to join fleet

THREE ferry boats will be added to the Kuwait Public Transport Co. (KPTC) fleet working between Ras Al Ardh port and Failaka Island, a local daily quoted an authoritative source at the company as saying.

The source added that the boats which will come into service within the next two months will enhance the company's operating potential by about 75 per cent.

KPTC began providing sea transport between Kuwait and Failaka Island in accordance with an agreement with the Touristic Enterprises Co.

Kuwait University teachers may get 10-year contracts

THE administration at Kuwait University has completed a study which proposes giving long-term contracts to non-Kuwaiti teachers who have conscientiously served the university for a long time.

Sources at the university said that if the proposals were implemented these teachers would be able to sign contracts to continue working for 10 years. The study was submitted to the committee of the deans of faculties.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Rector for Society and Informational Affairs at the University, Dr Rasha Al Sabah, has said that the deans' committee held a meeting on Saturday evening under the Rector of the University, Dr Abdul Mohsen Al Abdul Razzak. The teaching staff

promotion system was discussed and the reports of the registration office were reviewed.

Dr Rasha Al Sabah pointed out that the committee deferred approving the new charter on promoting the teaching staff, but said that measures and conditions of promotions were reviewed.

For a teacher to be promoted to the post of professor, he must write at least 10 research papers five of which should have been published in well-known magazines and periodicals, she said. This charter will be approved in the forthcoming meeting of the deans' committee, she said. The committee will also nominate a number of Kuwaiti professors for the post of dean of the Faculty of Arts. These names will be reviewed by the rector of

the university who will also put them before the university council for selection to be made.

Postponed
Dr Rasha Al Sabah further noted that the committee also postponed a draft law to amend a charter for students' societies at the university. The draft law states that all the societies in each faculty will be joined in one society. The society will be allowed to open branches for each department in the faculty, she said. She added that the draft law will be approved at the deans' committee meeting on Wednesday.

The issue will also be brought before the university council which will hold a meeting on Saturday, headed by the new Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlan.

Western officials await minesweeping by Iran

MANAMA, Bahrain, Sept. 18. (AP): Western officials are watching to see whether Iran follows through on its stated intention of clearing mines from "international waters" of the Gulf beginning Thursday.

One American official said that for Tehran to begin such an operation would be "tantamount to admitting that they laid the mines" amid the eight-year Gulf war with Iraq.

Despite considerable evidence, Iran has never acknowledged sowing mines.

Sceptical
Foreign experts are sceptical of Iran's ability to sweep mines. British specialists say it is known to have only two old US-built vessels with what one called "incredibly rudimentary" capabilities.

Last Thursday, Tehran Radio quoted Iran's Navy commander.

Rear Adm. Mohammad-Hussein Malekzadegan, as saying Iran would begin minesweeping operations Sept. 22 "in order to secure shipping."

He said Iran would welcome help from Arab states in mine clearing, but gave no information about where the operations would be conducted or who had laid the mines.

European diplomats have reported preliminary discussions on a multi-national mine-clearing force for the Gulf. But US officers say they have no indication that it would materialise soon, if ever.

The nearest thing to it is "Force Calendar," a joint unit of three British mine hunters, one Dutch and one Belgian, under British command. Other anti-mine forces include six US, two Italian and two French minesweepers.

The latter two groups normally operate outside the Gulf. French Prime Minister Michel Rocard said last week that France would continue an "active role" in mine clearing.

Iran's minesweeping force, originally four coastal and two in-shore craft obtained from the United States in the early 1960s, has been seriously depleted by time and war. Analysts for Jane's Defence Weekly has said Iran has only one of each type of vessel left in the Gulf.

They noted that two US-built Iranian RH-53D helicopter minesweepers are no longer capable of carrying out the function for which they were acquired.

"If the Iranians were going to do this minesweeping as they say, they'd have to convert some fishing boats or other craft," Jane's spokesman Mark Broughton said by telephone.

"They basically don't have anything but an incredibly rudimentary capability."

Powdered milk causes digestive disorders

PHYSICIANS and specialists have confirmed that powdered milk causes digestive and intestinal disorders and that fresh milk is necessary for both adults and children. But powdered milk still accounts for 50 per cent of Kuwait's total milk sales.

A local daily recently polled some individuals involved in milk production. Cattle farmer Abdullah Al Naseeb said that local farms could increase output to meet local demand, provided that some simple requirements are met.

Authorities should allow the expansion of farms, he said. But officials must remember that Kuwait's climate, especially in the summer, results in lower milk yields, he added.

Self-sufficiency
A farm owner in Sulaybiyah, Meshan Al Adwani, said that to realise self-sufficiency in the milk industry, some measures should be taken to protect dairy farmers. He said local farms should be expanded in accordance with

decisions adopted by the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Wealth.

The Chairman of the Dairy Producers' Union, and Deputy Chairman of the Kuwait Dairy Co., Jassem Al Mudhaf, called for the protection of national production by either banning milk imports or imposing high duties on imported milk.

He added that some consumers do not fully appreciate the importance of fresh milk in their diets and still prefer powdered milk.

The Director of Kuwait Dairy, Adel Al Shaker, said that despite climatic difficulties and high costs, the production of fresh and pasteurised milk and their derivatives plays an important role in the attainment of food self-sufficiency.

Public sector appointment on basis of qualifications

Manpower in the government sector will be developed and organised if these proposals and policies are carried out within the given time limits, he said.

He added that promotions in the public sector are made according to seniority or selection in the general employment group and the technical group. Promotions are made every year in January and July.

The minister has the authority to promote any employee whose work has been of an exceptionally high standard. He pointed out that the Civil Service Commission recently set up a committee to study and revise pay scales.

Sheikh Mohammed Al Salman further noted that the commission organises two kinds of training of civil servants.

The first is training for jobs such as personnel affairs, general accounting, secretarial work, typing and public relations.

The second kind of training is for specialised work like Ministry of the Interior investigators, medical registration clerks at the Ministry of Public Health and child supervisors at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour's welfare houses.

GCC airline being considered

MUSCAT, Sept. 18. (KUNA): The general secretary of the GCC Co-operation Council is studying setting up a joint GCC airline made up of the three national airlines in the community, the Omani Communications Minister Hmoud Al Harthy said today.

In a statement published in the daily Oman, the minister said "This scheme that involves the three main national carriers, Saudia, Kuwait Airways and Gulf Air, would facilitate movement between council states and encourages tourism."

The minister said the Gulf Air board has endorsed the new strategy for developing the carrier's fleet by introducing six new Boeing 767 airliners to replace old aircraft.

He added that the authorities here are also studying the opening of Salala Airport before international carriers after its recent move to receive direct flights from GCC states and other countries.

Qatari minister meets Kuwaiti envoy

DOHA, Sept. 18. (KUNA): Qatar's Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani today received Kuwait's Ambassador to Qatar Hussein Al Mussallam who is ending his mission in Doha.

The Kuwaiti ambassador thanked the Crown Prince for the co-operation he received from Qatari officials during his term in Doha.

The Kuwaiti ambassador later met with Qatari Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamad Bin Seif Al Thani.

'Manakh Knights' will go to court

WITHIN the coming few days main dealers involved in the Manakh crisis who have not settled their post-dated deals will be referred to the courts, according to authoritative sources.

The government is serious about taking stiff legal action against 12 dealers, sources said.

The dealers, described as "Manakh Knights" during the crisis, are accused of many violations.

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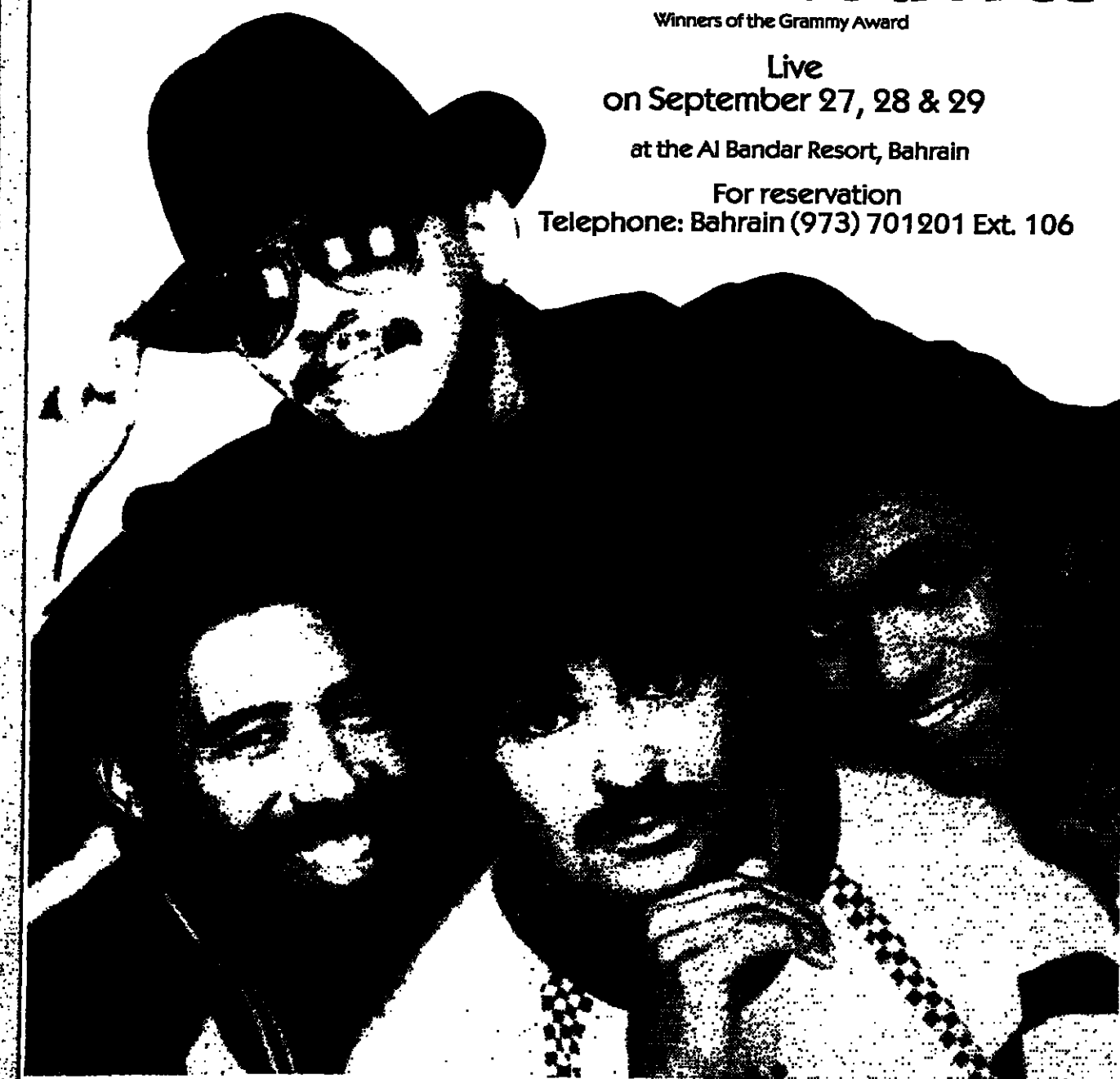
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INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

High drama, low morale

GOLDEN rules for viewing Hindi films: don't question, don't think, don't blink, don't panic, don't listen, and if you can't follow the rules, don't bother, sit back on a reclining chair, sip tea, and shut your brain. You have a one in a million chance of enjoying the escapism fare, like K. Bapaiah's *Sone Pe Suhaga*.

K. Bapaiah's name is synonymous with South Indian masala (formula) films, passing off as social melodramas — high drama, low morale, loaded with a social message, with good triumphing over evil. Bapaiah's latest, *Sone Pe Suhaga* couldn't be worse than any other in the escapism genre, if it can be called a genre.

Roughly, *Sone Pe Suhaga* revolves around the saying "to err is human". Forgiving, in this instance, would certainly not be divine.

The cost of human errors runs high — not in terms of money, though. In *Sone Pe Suhaga* the price is paid by a long suffering family, victimised by circumstances. To compound the woes Bapaiah resorts to the oldest trick in the book — separation, not the usual parting in the mela (carnival). This time, bullets fly, men die, some escape to amaze you with supernatural powers of resurrection.

Cause? Corruption in the police force. No awards for



Dharmendra

Bapaiah for this revelation. Effect? Well, three hours of Bapaiah's melodramatic journey through the (unknown) working of the villain's devilish mind.

Result? Confusion, compounded by astounding legal scenes. Example: Joginder is on trial for murder. Vijay, also behind bars for a separate murder, is set free.

To further complicate matters there is a mix-up: no one is what he or she says, he or she is. The Dada (local hoodlum) is not really a con man; the local pick-pocket (Sri Devi) is not all that poor; the murderer on trial is not the murderer; a killer, still at large, has this uncanny habit of showing up at court hearings and shooting the key witness, spilling his guts in the court-

room; the slum-dweller is not really poor and the four-month-old infant she thought she had drowned in that purest of pure rivers — Ganga — was cradled by the Ganga and is alive and kicking — on stage as a magician. That, indeed, is better than David Copperfield's illusion of walking through the China Wall.

Now that you've lost the scent, pursuing a non-existent theme, and are at your wit's end, the jigsaw puzzle falls into place, but not before the athlete (Kimi Katkar) in a micro-mini, runs through heavy traffic at breakneck speed with the proof of the arch-villain's crime. The film stars a host of performers, including Sri Devi, Dharmendra, Jeetendra, Anil Kapoor, Kimi Katkar, Kader Khan, Poonam Dhillon and many more, too numerous to list. To find out who is the fairest of them all, we'll have to ask the magic mirror. Their performance, if they were doing that, is not noteworthy. They seem like zombies, sleep-walking in the zoo.

Tohfa Mohabbat Ka

Who will give the gift of love to whom? That is the question of *Tohfa Mohabbat Ka*, a love triangle, angled at activating your tear buds with utmost sincerity. It is neither a sensitive love triangle nor a romantic one. It happens to be one of those run-of-the-mill, pretentious love sagas, unfolding as tragic love affairs. In classic



Kimi Katkar and Anil Kapoor star in Sone Pe Suhaga.

style, it has a happy ending. It revolves around Vinay and his love for a blue-eyed beauty, played by Kimi Katkar. Though Vinay believes "marriage is the dumbest thing on earth," he agrees to fall "into the trap." Their love is doomed, not by parental opposition or villainous characters but ruined by fate, which interferes at the most inopportune moment, snatching away the girl he loves.

The idea, perhaps, was to show Vinay's deep involvement and affection for the girl he loses, but the director and script writer change their mind and, instead bring in the routine scenes. The other woman, played by Anuradha

Patel, rescues him in la Kholona, and then walks away into oblivion. Remember *Kholona*? Sanjeev Kumar and Mumtaz starred in that movie, based on a book by Gulshan Nanda. Tohfa... steals excerpts from *Kholona* haphazardly, with Govinda unsuccessfully trying to re-do the Sanjeev act. The appealing theme has been handled insensitively, playing up the humdrum, concentrating on contrived situations — the other woman becoming a dancing girl; damaging family rivalry; double roles and other trivia.

The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwadia: Tel: 471-2900.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Alamiya Pharmacy
Jando Bldg., Fahad Al Salem St.
Al Hakim Pharmacy
Jaber Al Mubarak St., Shariq

Hawalli and Nagra
Al Rihab Pharmacy
Rihab Complex, Tunis St., Hawalli

Salmiya and Rumaihiya
Shifa Pharmacy
Anjari Complex, Salem Al Mubarak St.

Fahsheel and Ahmadi
Al Imhan Pharmacy
Maktabah St., Fheh

Old Khaitan
Al Ahram Pharmacy
Block 2, Sulaiman Saleh Al Rahaimani Bldg.

Jahra
Al Noor Pharmacy
Abdul Aziz Nassrullah Bldg., Matafi St.

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Alligator
Starring: Robert Forrester, Henry Sullivan

Al Salmiya
Trancers
Starring: Tim Thomson, Helen Hunt

Al Hamra
Al Kamasha (Arabic)
Starring: Mahmoud Yaseen, Basi, Shweikar

Drive-In
Nahar Al Khauf (Arabic)
Starring: Nodra, Mahmood Abdul Aziz, Salah Qabli

Al Firdous
Khoun Baha Ganga Main (Hindi)
Starring: Aditya Pancholi, Anurita Singh

Fahsheel Open-Air
Pyasa Sawan (Hindi)

Al Fahsheel
Valley Girl

Al Jahra
Raiders of Paradise

Granada
Take it Easy

Sulabikhat
The Taming of the Scrooge

Al Jleeb
Joker (Bengali)

Ahmadi Drive-In
Robocop

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.16 am
Zuhr	11.42
Asr	3.10 pm
Maghreb	5.47
Isha	7.05

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Kuwait Science Museum
DAILY: 5 pm onwards: natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Friday: 9 am onwards.

Islamic Arts Museum
SAT — THURS: 8.30 am to 12.30 noon and 4.30 to 7.30 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment. Arabian Gulf St.

Tareq Rajab Museum
SAT — THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; FRIDAYS: 9 am to noon. Collection of Islamic art, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.

Sadu House
SAT — THURS: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

EDUCATION

Books & software show
SEPT. 24-28: British Council, Mansouriya; 9 am - 12.30 pm; 5 - 8 pm: Computers and Their Application, an exhibition of books and software. Selected titles on show. Organised by British Council in association with Kuwait Bookshops Company. All are welcome.

THEATRE

KLT
SEPT 20/21: KLT, Ahmadi, 7.30 pm. Auditions for annual pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk. Those interested can attend audition at the theatre. The group needs volunteers to help backstage.

Alice in Wonderland
SEPT 23: Kuwait English School, Salwa, 10 am: Kuwait Players will audition children — ages eight to 12 — for eight roles in the musical fantasy. Alice in Wonderland. It will be performed in January next year.

SEPT 25/26: KES, Salwa, 7.30 pm: Audition for adults

(14 roles) for Alice in Wonderland. Those attending auditions — adults and children — are requested to call 564-0102 in advance.

Konkani Drama
OCT. 7: IAC, Funaitees, 4 pm: Konkani drama entitled "Xim Vo Ximter", featuring the Mendes Brothers. Entry passes available at Raja Stores.

MUSIC

Kuwait Singers
SEPT 18: Kuwait Singers start rehearsals for their winter concert on Sunday, 7.30 pm, and not Monday, at the Sunshine School, Salwa. New members particularly welcome.

Indian Ballet
SEPT 22: 7.00 pm, at IAC, Funaitees: Nartana, a dance troupe led by Mohiniyattam exponent Mrs Prameela Surendran, will stage a ballet, Panchavadi, and Nrithasav. Admission will be strictly limited: for free passes, call 4337608.

Ahmadi Music Society
SEPT 24: 7.30 pm, KLT, Ahmadi. Rehearsals commence for the Society's annual concert. Scheduled to be held on Dec 11, 12 and 13. Newcomers are welcome. For details Tel: 391-2384; 398-3964; 390-1782.

Country Western Musical
SEPT 27: Gala Night of KLT and ACT's annual Country Western Musical 7.30 pm at KLT, Ahmadi.

SEPT 28 and 29, night shows, 8 pm.

SEPT 30: matinee at 5 pm. For bookings call 5727558; 5712033; 5620332.

OCT 6: IAC, 6.30 pm: "East meets West", a musical evening by The Fams. Hindi, Punjabi, Malayalam, Tamil, Konkani, Bengali, Arabic and Western music. Lead vocalist: Susan Rego. For entry by passes Tel: 2409250; 4743948 or IAC — 3904817.

Beat Show
OCT 14: IAC, 3.30 pm: Kuwait Goan Beat Show: four hours of non-stop music featuring six brass bands — City Limits, 5th Dimensions, Per-

fect Stranger, Stepping Stones, Next of Kin and Top Ranks. Organised by the Kuwait Goans.

Guitar Recital
OCT 19: German guitarist and composer Wolfgang Condin will give a recital at the Kuwait Hilton. "Hymns of Eternity", one of Condin's most significant compositions will be featured in his concert along with works by J.S. Bach and H. Villa-Lobos. Tickets are available from the Hilton lobby.

SOCIAL

Kuwait Players
Poolside BBQ
SEPT 21: Messilah Beach Hotel, 8 pm: Kuwait Players poolside BBQ. All prospective members and newcomers to Kuwait are welcome. Tickets — KD2 per person. For reservations Tel: 394-1572.

Varca Sporting Centre
SEPT 22: SAS Hotel's Tent, 8 pm: Varca Sporting Centre's third annual social evening. Music by Top Ranks and Stepping Stones. Highlights: Beauty Queen contest, ideal couple contest, fancy dress, games and Bingo. For reservations and details, contact Maqbool — 471-2900, AlBERT 241-0461, or James 5331940.

Kapilku/Flassik
OCT 22: SAS Hotel's Tent, 6 pm: Kapilku and Flassik will celebrate their seventh anniversary. For details phone Edna — 563-4200; Florence — 243-9451; Jojo — 903-9593.

Contact
SEPT 24, SAS Hotel, 10.30 am: Contact Ladies Information Group meeting. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome. For details phone 487-4513 or 3388105.

Sounds Great Party
SEPT 29: Messilah Beach Hotel, 8 pm: Sounds Great group's "Welcome Back/Welcome to Kuwait" dance party. Music by Top Ranks and Juke Box band. Twist competition, and novelty prizes. For reservations and further details ring Ken — 5740256/7 or 5758870. Newcomers to Kuwait are particularly welcome.

D'Assisi Association
OCT 7: Holy Family Cathedral, 8 am: D'Assisi Association's 8th annual thanksgiving mass. All ex-students are welcome. For details phone Augustin — 574-6754 after 6 pm or Henry — 3291909 (am).

Goan Fiesta 88
OCT 13: Messilah Beach Hotel, Habiba Ballroom: Goan Fiesta 88 to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Young Goan Association. Music by the Stepping Stones and Hurricane Alley. For details Tel: 481-3740.

At the Meridian
VERSAILLES: seafood, grilled, lunch and dinner. AL WAHA: Noodles promotion, until Sept 30. Thursday: Tony's jam session, music, good and lively atmosphere.

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TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

3.30 Holy Quran
3.35 Heidi: cartoon serial
4.10 World News via satellite
4.40 Fursan Al Hikmah: "Al Hisab Al Ascer". Arabic serial, with Mohammad Dafarawi, Midhat Saleh, Hamza Shimi.
5.40 Songs and Music
6.00 Children and summer
7.05 Songs and Music
7.30 Alwan: presented by Rolah Al Farah
8.00 Quran and Science: "Alam Al Banat". Part 8. Prepared and presented by Dr. Ahmad Shawkil Ibrahim.

9.00 News in Arabic
9.50 Al Shara'a Maktour: Arabic serial, starring Hassan Yusuf, Nawal Al Futouh, Mustafa Fahmi, Osama Abbas.
10.50 Karama Zaujati: Arabic feature film, starring Shadiya, Salah Zulfikar, Raja Salawati, Sharifa Maher.
12.05 News Summary
12.10 World News via Satellite, followed by Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

1.30 Holy Quran
1.40 Care Bear Cartoons



Miami Vice, 8.40 pm, KTV 2.

1.50 Olympic Games: highlights
6.50 Daily report on Olympics from Seoul
8.00 News in English
8.40 Miami Vice: "Knock, Knock. Who's There?". The vice squad are entrusted to find out the reason behind a policeman's incompetence. Starring: Don Johnson.
9.30 Private Benjamin: "Not for Men Only". The Tigers regiment is for men only but one of the girls wants to join it. Judy tries to help...
10.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: "Deadly

User". A psychopath is on the run... and kills beautiful women, one by one.

10.30 The Equalizer: "Regrets Only". A doctor's wife ends up in a mental asylum after mal-treatment by her schizophrenic husband. Starring: Edward Woodward.

11.30 News Summary/Magazine d'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

BBC World Services

0600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Radio Newsweek
30 Religious Service
0100 News Summary followed by From Raj to Rajiv
45 Without Strings (ex 26th)
0200 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Peaches' Choice
30 Science in Action
0300 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Good Books
30 Anything Goes
0400 Newsweek
30 5th and 12th Where Angels Fear to Tread; 19th and 26th Sportsweek
45 Reflections
0500 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Nature Notebook
45 Recording of the Week
0600 Newsweek
30 The Stuarts (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)
0700 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 The Cross and the Crescent (ex 26th Every Poem an Epitaph)
0800 World News
09 Reflections
15 5th and 12th Where Angels Fear to Tread; 19th and 26th Malgudi Days
30 Anything Goes
0900 World News
09 British Press Review
15 Good Books

30 Financial News followed by Sports
45 Peaches' Choice (ex 19th and 26th Sportsweek)
1000 News Summary followed by The Stuarts (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)
30 The Vintage Chart Show
1100 World News
09 News about Britain
15 Health Matters (ex 26th Tech Talk)
30 The Kim Bruce Show
1200 Radio Newsweek
15 Reflections
30 Sports Roundup
1300 World News
09 Twenty-Four Hours: News Summary
30 Anything Goes (ex 19th and 26th Sportsweek)
45 (19th and 26th only) Anything Goes
1400 Outlook, opening with 5-Minute News
45 The Third Policeman (ex 26th T.S. Eliot Poems)
1500 Radio Newsweek
15 The Stuarts (ex 26th Has Socialism a Future?)

45 English Songsmiths (ex 19th)
1600 World News
09 News about Britain
15 5th and 12th Whither Wisdom?; 19th and 26th Americans in Europe
30 Lyrics and Lyricsists (ex 5th The A-Z of Hollywood)
45 The World Today
1700 World News
09 Commentary
15 Beethoven (ex 19th and 26th New Music)
45 Sports Roundup
1800 Newsweek
30 Multitrack 1: Top 20 (ex 5th From Concert)
Urdu
1900 Opening
1910 Behcet Qaul
1916 Programme Preview
1920 Songs
1935 Press Report
1940 Islamiyat: Daur-e-Hazir
2000 News
2020 Songs
2040 Hamare Mehman
2100 Closedown

Apartments for rent in Jabriya

- 2 Bedrooms, ● A big hall
- 2 Bathrooms, ● Central A/C,
- Swimming pool ● Garden facilities.

Contact tele. 2410190 — 2415645

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

A specialist company has a vacancy for a self-motivated ambitious youth with the following qualifications:

1. Education: Degree in Chemical Engineering
2. Experience: A minimum of one year
3. Nature of job: Sales representative
4. Must have a valid Kuwaiti driving licence
5. Priority in appointment to Kuwaitis and GCC citizens

Interested persons should mail detailed information about their present and previous occupation — last salary obtained — with copies of their degrees, experience and recent personal photographs to the following address:

Administrative Affairs Manager,
P.O. Box 23878 Safat, 13099 Kuwait

Spectroscopy: a new leap in cancer scanning

Scientists in the UK have combined conventional body scans with a technique called spectroscopy to pinpoint important chemical compounds in diseased organs.

By Mick Hurrell

A NEW way of analysing body scans could lead to better diagnosis and safer treatment of cancers.

Scientists at the magnetic resonance research centre in Liverpool university have combined conventional body scans with a technique called spectroscopy to pinpoint important chemical compounds in diseased organs.

This will enable doctors to assess the effectiveness of a particular treatment in a matter of days, rather than weeks, by showing whether the drugs are reaching the tumour and whether the growth of cancer cells is slowing down.

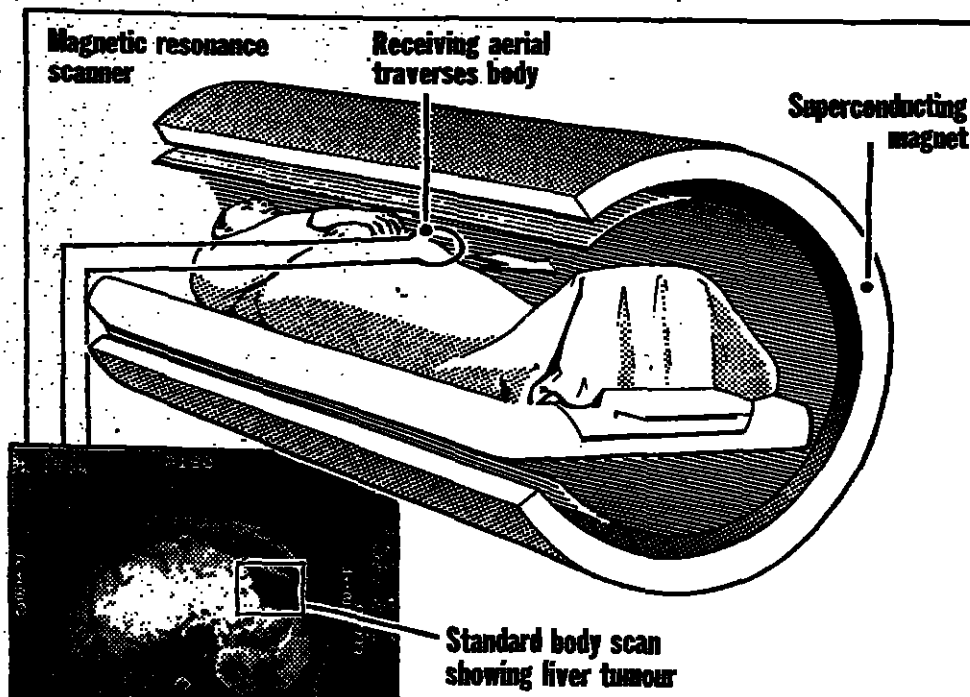
Discriminate

So far, it has been shown the technique can discriminate biochemically between malignant and benign liver tumours. It has also been able to confirm the presence of one particular anticancer drug inside a tumour. Researchers hope to use this method to monitor patients so they can discover how this drug, and later others, is metabolised.

According to Professor Richard Edwards, the centre's director and research group leader, if the initial, encouraging results are borne out, then the scientists should be close to a technique that reveals the structure of a range of cancers and also shows how they respond to treatment.

"It offers for the first time an opportunity to understand the mechanisms of tissue chemistry without having to stick in a needle," he says.

"It is an amazingly good, safe technique, for making, series,



observations about the progress of disease and the mechanisms by which treatment may be successful.

To give the best treatment, doctors have to diagnose the type of cancer and find out how far it has gone. At present, they use a blunderbuss approach with drugs, chemotherapy, or both, and to see if it is effective, they have to take X-rays over several weeks.

This can lead to excessive doses being given, or to inadequate doses that have no benefit. All cancer treatments have side effects, and some of these can be unpleasant or downright dangerous.

Resonance

For example, the common cancer drug 5-Fluoro Uracil, which the Liverpool team is studying, fights certain types of liver tumour by suppressing DNA reproduction in the affected cells. But it also suppresses the reproduction of some other cells and can sterilise the patient.

Magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy have been used for many years.

Common imaging uses the magnetic properties of atomic

nuclei, in particular protons in water, to build up a high-definition picture of the soft tissues and organs in a section of the body. It does this using a strong magnetic field and radio waves to pick up the slight differences in response that the same protons have when they are part of different chemical compounds.

Some other nuclei show a similar but weaker response. Each emits a characteristic burst, or spectrum of energy when put in a magnetic field and these can be picked up by an aerial passed over the patient's body.

Spectroscopy contributes to the technique by analysing all the different chemical elements in a compound by separating them out according to their atomic weights and their characteristic wave-lengths of energy.

The Liverpool researchers' achievement has been to combine the advantages of spectroscopy with imaging. It means doctors can build a picture of the tumour and the chemical compounds in it.

They have used computer analysis to overcome the problems of signal contamination

and confusion, which had thwarted previous attempts to pinpoint biochemical spectroscopic information in space.

With the patient inside the superconducting magnet, the organ being analysed is scanned in strips 10mm wide and a standard magnetic proton image made. The computer then overlays a 16x16 grid over each strip and shows the relative concentration of the other nuclei it has calculated through shaded squares.

Tumour

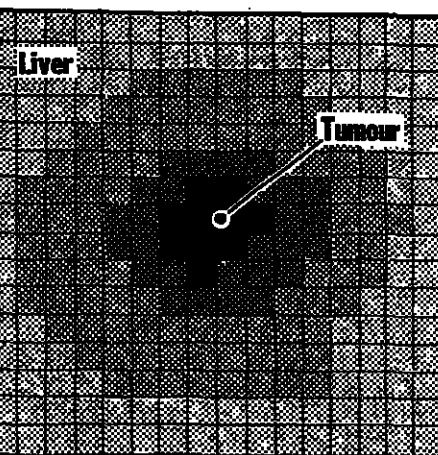
The Liverpool team has chosen to look for phosphorus, a tell-tale sign of the growth or decline of tumours in an organ. It is looking for phosphorus compounds formed by the growth and death of cells in tissue. Certain types of phosphorus compounds, mono-phosphoesters, are produced when a cell is created, so a high concentration of these is a sign that the tumour is growing. When cells are being destroyed, di-phosphoesters are produced, so if lots of these show up, treatment is probably effective.

Besides characterising tumour type and growth, the Liverpool team is using magnetic spectroscopy to look at how the body metabolises 5-Fluoro Uracil. This drug is convenient for this research because little fluorine is found naturally in the body, so any found by spectroscopy must be from something that doctors have put into the system.

Scans of cancer patients have shown the presence of fluorine in tumours and patients will be monitored regularly to get biochemical snapshots and to gauge how their conditions progress.

Edwards is still cautious but believes the work may lead to a big advance in the treatment of cancer. "It is a first step in what we hope will be a line of development," he says.

"We are seeing what it is in tumours that changes in response to treatment. In the case of those which are not successful, the aim is to find out what is the nature of the chemical progression in the tumour which makes it fatal — with a hope in the future of identifying some intervention that could reverse it."



A computer lays this 16x16 grid over sections of the standard scan to show the concentration of a chemical whose distribution has been calculated by spectroscopy

Faces reshaped by computer

By Peter Pallot

IN a cramped room high in one of the outbuildings of University College Hospital in London, scientists have developed a device which fleshes out humanity.

Backed by a £400,000 Health Department grant, they have evolved a system which could bring a skeleton to life, but not in an alarming way. By X-ray scanning a human skull and feeding the information into a computer, they can build up a three-dimensional model. Only two-dimensional pictures have been obtainable to date.

Engaged

The principal use of the 3-D picture is in assisting surgeons in the delicate business of reshaping faces of people afflicted with serious deformities, like a cleft palate. It allows the surgeon to make precise measurements in advance so that, when the patient is under anaesthetic, he knows precisely how much bone — "borrowed" in advance from another part of the body — is



A three-dimensional X-ray picture of a cleft palate. (Right): on the computer, the surgeon is able to move a chunk of the jaw forward and to calculate the exact amount of bone to be inserted. The remodelled skull can then be fleshed out.

needed to build up the missing upper jaw.

Dr Alf Linney, one of the physicists engaged in the six-year project, says: "We also want to give the patient some idea of what he is going to look like after the operation. It might be that he doesn't like it, but many do."

A spin-off from the project, in collaboration with Professor James Moss, of UCH's department of orthodontics, is that as the team learns how soft tissue relates to the skull, they will be able to flesh out skulls.

This could be useful to police

wanting relatives to identify skulls of possible murder victims. The forensic science department of London Hospital are showing an interest in the "computaface" and archaeologists, too, are interested in the possibilities of bringing to life ancient skulls.

The UCH team is currently evaluating medical conditions in which their device will prove effective. These include cleft palate — in which the patient's upper jaw has not developed, leading to eating and speech difficulties — protruding jaws and holes in the skull.

Transplants, grafting techniques could help against brain ailments

By Daniel Q. Haney

BOSTON, (AP) — When Dr Abraham N. Lieberman gives talks about brain transplants, he flashes two faces on the screen: Albert Einstein and Moe of the Three Stooges comedy team.

People have gotten used to the idea of shifting kidneys, livers, even hearts, from person to person. But the seat of intellect and personality is unquestionably special.

Despite his illustration of the differences, brain-wise, between people, Lieberman says the organ is just as transferable as others.

"Brain is tissue, and it can be transplanted as tissue, the way liver and kidney can," he says.

Swapping

Doctors aren't swapping whole brains, or even thinking seriously about it. But they have taken the first tentative steps toward transplanting small parts of brains, or related tissue from elsewhere in the body or from fetuses, to cure the ills of the body's most important and mysterious organ.

In addition to the United States, experimental efforts have been reported in Mexico, England and Sweden.

Although such therapy has just begun, the ethical thickets surrounding it are already being explored, mainly because of one big and unresolved question: where will the brains come from?

Lieberman is a neurologist at New York University, where doctors are trying to reverse Parkinson's disease by removing chemical-producing tissue from the adrenal glands and implanting it in the victim's brain.

At Vanderbilt University in Tennessee, doctors have used a similar approach to treating Huntington's disease.

Some day brain transplants may control a variety of other degenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's disease. For now, most of the early testing is centered on Parkinson's, a reasonable place to start. Unlike many other brain diseases, it is limited to a small region of the brain, and its underlying complexities are fairly well understood.

It also is one of the most common brain diseases. Between 500,000 and one million Americans, including two per

cent of everyone over 70, have Parkinson's. Once it was considered to be exclusively a disease of the elderly, but it is being diagnosed increasingly in younger people, even in their 20s and 30s.

Parkinson's results from gradual destruction of a part of the brain called the nigral tissue, which makes an essential message-carrying chemical, dopamine.

Sufferer

Victims often suffer tremors and have trouble controlling their movements. Some find it hard to stand unaided and walk, if at all, with short, shuffling steps. Patients may even be unable to hold their heads erect.

There is no cure. The disease is slowly progressive, although its worst effects can be held off for a few years with levodopa and other drugs.

The goal of brain surgery is to replace the damaged tissue so the brain will make its own dopamine again. There are several sources of tissue: aborted fetuses, living organ donors, the dead and the victim's own body.

The most common approach in Parkinson's is to transfer dopamine-making tissue from one place to another in the patient. The adrenal glands, which lie above the kidneys, also produce dopamine, so doctors implant adrenal tissue in the patient's brain.

At a conference at the Clinical Research Centre at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr Peter McIl. Black of Brigham and women's hospital here said at least 11 US medical centres have performed this kind of operation on 70 people.

"It's not a miracle cure," he said. About half are better to some degree, and 10 per cent are convincingly improved.

Lieberman said the most impressive of his 11 patients is a doctor who could not walk or even stand before the surgery. Although he is far from cured, he can walk unaided, live alone and go outside.

Lieberman said the surgery is in such an early, crude stage that doctors are unsure exactly what tissue to transplant, where to put it or what it does.

"It's like we are giving bread mold to people and don't even know what penicillin is," he said. "That's the level we are at."

It is the only hope for some people who are going downhill

and no longer respond to medicine.

But there are drawbacks beyond the mediocre results so far. It is expensive: \$30,000 to 100,000 depending on where the surgery is done. And it is such a grueling procedure — actually two major operations on the abdomen and the head — that many elderly Parkinson's victims are simply too sick to stand it.

To improve the outcome, doctors are considering other, potentially better, tissue sources. One is adrenal glands from young kidney donors. Another is fetuses.

In January, Dr Ignacio Madrazo and colleagues from La Raza Medical centre in Mexico City said they obtained dramatic results after transplanting brain and adrenal tissue from a spontaneously aborted fetus into two Parkinson's victims. Earlier this month, they said one of them had improved enough to go job hunting.

Improvements

Since then, the operation also has been done at the Midland Centre for Neurosurgery and Neurology in England. Researchers at the University of Lund in Sweden, reported that after six months, their first two patients showed no significant improvement.

Some experts believe that in people, tissue from aborted fetuses will work better than adrenal tissue from the patient's own body. It would eliminate the need for surgery to gather the tissue, and because it's so immature, it might adapt better to its new locale.

Lund's Dr Anders Bjorklund has experimented with rats that have Parkinson's, which resolves when fetal tissue is implanted and returns when it is removed. He has even successfully given them human fetal tissue.

However, a human needs far more fetal tissue, Bjorklund noted. "There is a real problem of how to scale up the procedure. We don't know if we can obtain enough material to do meaningful trials" in humans.

Animal studies suggest other possible uses for fetal brains. When given to infertile mice that lack an essential hormone, the animals became able to reproduce. Fetal brain tissue also improved the memories of old rats.

America's master clock watcher

By Nelson Graves

WASHINGTON, (Reuters) — In this city where politics is lifeblood and a President's four-year term the standard unit of measure, Gernot Winkler keeps his own kind of time.

He runs America's master clock and determines official US time as director of the naval observatory's time service department, atop a quiet, wooded hill two miles (three km) from the White House.

Outside his cramped, cluttered office are two dozen atomic clocks — squat boxes resembling dishwashers that keep time to within one-billionth of a second by measuring the microwave resonance frequency of the cesium atom.

"If we could make distance measurements with that accuracy from here to the sun (93 million miles) the error would be less than one-and-a-half millimetres," Winkler says.

His clocks, he says, are 100 million times more precise than the best chronometer of his youth. But they are not perfect, and Winkler resorts to averaging his array of atomic clocks to come up with standard US time.

The military, communications engineers, ships, even television stations count on the naval observatory to give the most precise time.

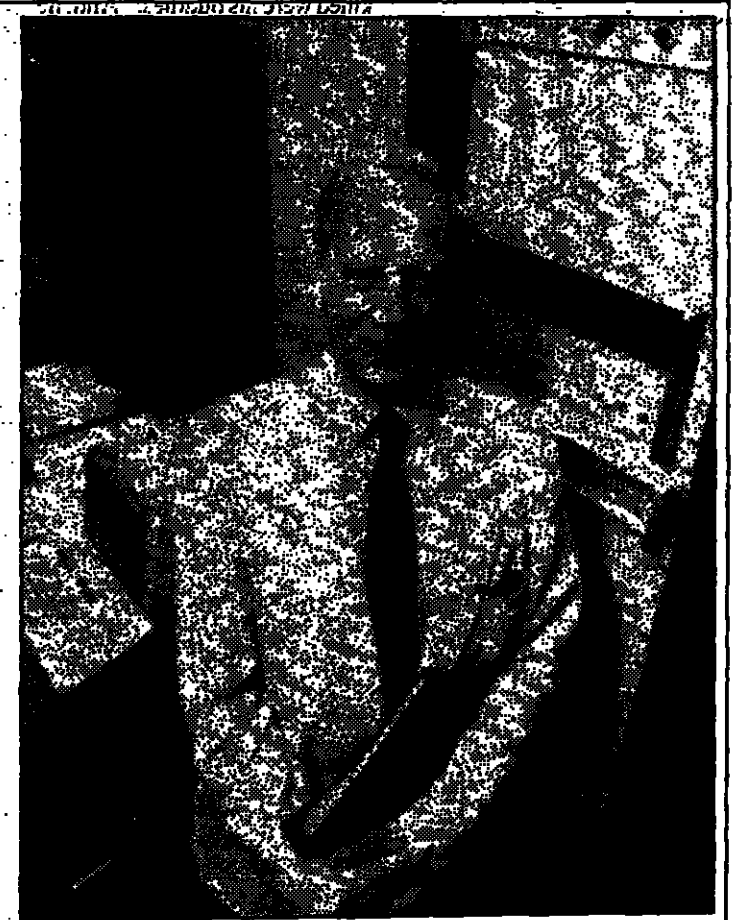
"A television commercial may cost \$10,000 for 10 seconds," he said. "You don't want to lose a 10th of a second."

Computers phone the observatory clock to have their internal clocks synchronised to within one millionth of a second of official time.

Austrian by birth and a naturalised US citizen, Winkler, 65, has been time service director for 22 years.

Last December 31 he oversaw the addition of the "leap second" to the minute that began at 7:59 pm Eastern Standard Time. The new second was needed to make up for a slowdown in the rotation of the earth.

Despite his dedication to this precision work, Winkler has a metaphysical view of time — a lofty view befitting a time-



Gernot Winkler, director of the US Naval Observatory's time service department with some of his atomic clocks that determine time to within one billionth of a second.

keeper who wears no watch himself.

"There is no such thing as time," he says. "Time does not exist. It is a measure for the changes that we see."

Since time is a "pure invention of our mind," there will never be a time machine to whisk us to the past or future.

"You would have to reverse all the processes in your body," Winkler says. "For that to happen, time would have to exist and we would have to turn it around," Winkler says.

Our ability to measure time, he says, is the foremost symbol of Western abstract civilisation. "Our civilisation is governed by abstract concepts. Compare the clumsy construction of machinery of 100 years ago with the elegant simplicity and tremendous power of machinery today," he says.

What about eternity? Winkler says it is not time without end, but existence without time. "Our experience as sensing and reflecting individuals, the idea of the ego — I — is a timeless experience. That is why we still feel the same young little boy and yet we may be old."

His work, however, involves time as a practical matter, including the question of how to eliminate confusion between

12 am and 12 pm. Winkler advocates eliminating 12 am/pm references from official communications and cites a court ruling in a New Jersey parking ticket case to support his argument.

A car had been ticketed at 1:30 pm one afternoon while parked before a meter marked "8 am to 12 pm." The driver assumed he could park for free after noon, but a judge ruled that city officials considered 12 pm to mean midnight. A higher court reversed the ruling, saying 12 pm could be noon or midnight.

The solution, says Winkler, is to just use "noon" and "midnight," and if it is midnight, give the two dates between which it falls — i.e., midnight September 21/22.

Still, the master of the clock says modern man can get too wrapped up in knowing what time it is.

"There is one danger in our civilisation, that we try to do things too systematically," he said. "I've been very interested all my life in abstractions, but this doesn't mean that I don't also love my dog and my family and nature."

"That's also why I don't carry a watch."

"Watches are for machines."



The space-age drummer

YOU tap a snare, hit a tom-tom, then you beat a bong, once in the centre and twice towards the edge of the drum head. Drum samples of compact disc quality are fed into the equipment's memory.

Another expensive recording session in a studio? No, this drummer is at home, recording his drum parts at leisure, using literally hundreds of sounds and tomorrow he will take along a floppy disc to the studio, saving many hours of expensive studio time.

The SDX computer based system for recording and performing has been developed by Simmons Electronics of St Albans in Southern England and is said to be the first capable of reproducing the tonal changes across the drum surface or the timbral change that results from strong or soft beats with a drumstick.

Scientists seek money to raise prehistoric monsters

By Mark Trevelyan

BRUSSELS: A century ago, workers at the bottom of a Belgian coal mine stumbled on one of the most exciting prehistoric finds of all time — 29 giant dinosaur skeletons.

Now, two Belgian scientists, convinced the discovery was only the tip of the iceberg, are campaigning to reopen the excavation in the village of Bernissart.

The problem is cash — \$25 million just to get started and maybe five times that amount for the whole project.

But so confident are the scientists that they are promising

the evolution of life. The 29 Iguanodon were found embedded in a huge layer of clay 350 metres (yards) underground, along with the remains of crocodiles, turtles and plants.

But according to Pierre Capront, head of the project, only a tiny fraction of the wedge of clay was properly excavated.

"Imagine what there is in that remaining mass," said Capront, a 27-year-old scientist from Liege University who seeks to reopen the mine with fellow-scientist Pierre Simonet.

"The first Iguanodon could be brought to the surface three

years from now," he said. Ten metres (30 feet) long, four metres (12 feet) tall and covered with scales like a lizard, the Iguanodon fed on swamp vegetation — but was also prey for other dinosaurs such as the megalosaurus, of which fragments were found at Bernissart last century.

It defended itself against head-lunges from its short-armed enemies by rearing up-right on its powerful hind legs and jabbing out with its "thumbs" — two sharp, upward-pointing spikes.

"What is found is likely to be very interesting and very dramatic," said British expert

David Norman, a leading world authority. "It's a fantastic undertaking. I'd always assumed it would never be possible to go into these mines again and that it was lost to history," he said.

No one is sure why so many Iguanodon were found so close together, although scientists have speculated that it may have been a gregarious animal which moved in herds.

An earth tremor brought the 1878 Bernissart excavation to an abrupt halt after only five months. The mine later flooded and has never been reopened.

PEOPLE

Britain's king-in-waiting is in no hurry to claim his inheritance

By Alan Hamilton

A WEALTHY American attending a charity dinner at the White House gazed in fascination at the guests of honour, the Prince and Princess of Wales.

He was dazzled by the glamour of the one, and struck by the way the other fiddled with his cufflinks and darted nervous glances around the room as though unsure whether he should be there at all. "His mother's got the throne and his wife's got the media," the American observed. "What's left for that poor guy?"

What is left for Charles Philip Arthur George, Prince of Wales, Earl of Chester, Duke of Cornwall, Duke of Rothesay, Earl of Carrick, Baron of Renfrew, Lord of the Isles and Prince and Great Steward of Scotland, is to be the 63rd monarch since the Saxon Egbert of Wessex defeated the Mercians on a Wiltshire hill in AD 825. The poor guy's problem is the waiting.

Hurry

Yet he is in no hurry to claim his inheritance, for that would be tantamount to wishing his mother dead. Nor will he entertain any suggestion of her abdication, an option favoured by those who would like to see him king while he is still young (he will be 40 in November), energetic and attractive. Moreover, abdication is against all tradition, against the Queen's nature, and against her Coronation vows.

Even a ground swell of popular opinion calling for her retirement would be unlikely to change her mind.

Charles certainly neither hopes nor expects to succeed to his destiny until he is into his sixties.

His reign will be relatively brief and, all other things being equal, it is Prince William who is likely to occupy the throne for a substantial part of the 21st century.

Charles, at heart an out-and-out traditionalist, appears to be intent on educating William for this role much as he was educated himself. Even Gordonstoun cannot be ruled out for the boisterous William. Charles hated it at the time, but was thoroughly imbued with its Kurt Hahn philosophy.

Charles stayed at home when his parents were abroad. William travelled with his parents when, in 1983, the couple made their first major overseas tour together to Australia and New Zealand.

That was a break with tradition, but in other areas his sons' upbringing seems to be following a more familiar path. Charles' first full day at school was traumatic; it coincided with the retirement of his nanny, Helen Lightbody, to whom he had grown greatly attached. Traumatic or not, it did not prevent him from visiting an almost identical set of circumstances on William, who, on return from his first day at Wetherby school in Notting Hill, found that nanny Barbara Barnes had suddenly left his parents' employment.

When his children were younger, Charles naturally wished to spend as much time as possible with them, a desire perhaps compounded by his frustration at being ignored while his wife stole the limelight. Now Press interest in the Princess of Wales has abated a little, but Charles sometimes appears still to be uneasy that he is nothing more than an irrelevant appendage to her glamour.

Distress

In 1987 he was very distressed when some newspapers noticed that he had spent upwards of a month at Balmoral without seeing either his wife or his children. Rumours of a failing marriage were fuelled by, as Charles has said, divorce is not an option open to him.

Nor was it contemplated, and anyone who imagines that

it was fails to understand the mores of the English aristocracy, who seem able to pursue separate lives whilst firmly married.

Diana's future role will consist partly of keeping her husband in touch with the world outside his own rarefied circle, and to keep him from too much introspection. On both counts, she has much to achieve.

Before Charles the only member of the Windsor dynasty to be trained for the crown from the day of his birth was the future Edward VIII, and the memory of his desecration still bears heavily on his successors.

In the lives of the young

Edward and the young Charles there are occasionally parallels — both in their own way the darlings of their generation, and both exhibiting varying degrees of social concern. But there is little parallel in their characters.

Possibly one of the best qualifications that an heir to the throne can have is a degree of bone-headedness, which will allow an unquestioning acceptance of his lot, and enable the crown prince to enjoy a painless wait in the wings pursuing a life of hedonism mixed with sport that is the hallmark of the talented rich. Unfortunately for Charles, he has no such qualification.



In the mood: Prince Charles and Princess Diana dance to the big band sound of the 40's during their recent visit to Australia

He has been a pioneer, both conscious and unwilling, from the day of his birth. He married outside the circle of European royalty, he is a pioneer in the sheer number of his future subjects he has met and, most significantly, he is a pioneer in being something of an aesthete and an intellectual, a self-doubting introvert, a lover of books, Italian opera, classical architecture and scholarship, in a family who have made a virtue of being middlebrow.

Sensitivity

Intellect and sensitivity are not essential qualifications for the job, indeed they may even be a danger if they cause the king-in-waiting to question why he cannot choose his own life. The political far right may see Charles as a danger, the far left may see him as a hope. In either case a questioning, insecure candidate could permit the destabilization and eventual demolition of the monarchy.

But to entertain such thoughts is to ignore the obvious fact that Charles still prefers tradition to innovation. He accepts the inevitability of the throne, and has never said or done anything to suggest otherwise. He is intensely loyal to his mother and family. He is stubbornly conventional, even old-fashioned, in his dress in spite of the best efforts of his wife. His sense of humour is anachronistic, and his pronouncements on society are more a call for a return to old values than a search for new ones.

After more than a decade of full-blown public life, Charles' often fragile strands of thought now show some sign of a common thread. His thoughts have become more coherent, his researches more thorough, and he speaks with increasing confidence and conviction. On his favourite subject of architecture, for instance, he has become almost withering.

He perceives that, as heir to the throne, he carries no formal



Prince Charles and Princess Diana share a moment of conversation during an engagement in Sydney, Australia. Last year's rumours about their marriage break-up greatly upset Charles.

authority, and that anything he does is done as an individual. But at the same time he can have influence of a limited kind in changing people's attitudes and values.

This he attempts to do with increasing vigour. He is, for example, deeply concerned with the importance of the individual.

Charles is extremely modest about what he believes he can accomplish, but is still frustrated and occasionally angry that it is so little. He retains an endearing belief that his everyday purpose is to bang heads together. He becomes easily angered if thwarted — a streak, perhaps, of his father's well-known intolerance. For one born to take an overview, he can also at times be fussy and precise, a legacy of a family background in which everything was done correctly or not at all.

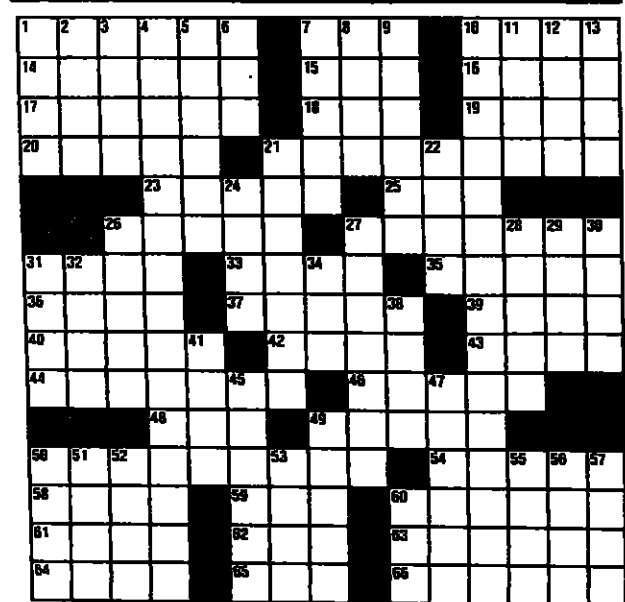
His greatest asset is his openness of mind, set in a foundation of belief in the institution he will eventually represent. He told the author Anthony Sampson, in *The Changing Anatomy of Britain*: "Something as curious as the monarchy won't survive unless you take account of people's attitudes. I think it can be a kind of elective institution. After all, if people don't want it, they won't have it."

Extracted from the *Real Charles* by Alan Hamilton, published by Collins (£10.95).



Family photograph of the Prince and Princess of Wales with their sons Prince William (left) and Prince Harry as they are posed on the satirical TV show *Spitting Image*.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Magician's word
 - American uncle
 - Gather
 - Heed
 - Stevevares' org
 - Hence
 - Word on a gas pump
 - Kind of tank
 - Irae
 - have all the flowers gone?
 - Gloss over, in a way
 - Inception
 - 25 I, in Essen
 - Obsolete
 - Economizes
 - Charlie, the fictional sleuth
 - Feeler
 - Practical
 - Unyielding
 - Piller
 - Exuberance
 - Inclined, as a ship
 - Buck or doe
 - Picnic pests
 - Put back
 - Alloy-coated steel
 - Female ruff
 - Had affection for
 - Entrance fee
 - Hebrew name meaning "exalted father"
 - Stringed instrument
 - Tell's canton
 - Inclined
 - Away from the wind
 - Isle of —
 - Wakes up
 - Offers
- DOWN**
- Annapolis grad.
 - Does a baker's job
 - 30 Capitol people: Abbr.
 - 31 Broil a steak rare
 - 32 In fine fettle
 - 34 Grassland
 - 38 Villain's trademark
 - 41 — the mark (obey)
 - 45 Continue
 - 47 Rhyme's partner
 - 49 Pocket fillers
 - 50 The Pequot's captain
 - 51 Salvador, the painter
 - 52 TV's vocal equine
 - 53 Persia, today
 - 55 Opera star
 - 56 Mimicked
 - 57 Hodgepodge
 - 60 Haven for Ham

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ARAB BEATS PANS
LURE ORNOT SPIT
BLANCHMANGE APSE
SETTABS SPILLIT
MEER DOME
REZAPS UPON SEE
OVALS SMEW MARL
BABA PECAN OURS
IDAS AMAS COCOA
NEG TREK MATERS
LENT EPOS
ASIATIC OUTSWAM
SLOG CHEESECAKE
TINE LETTS ODIN
APIER EROSE TENS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
THE SHADOW OF A TRICK

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ A J 6
♥ 8 5 3
♦ 9 5
♣ A K 10 8 2

WEST
♠ Q 5
♥ A 10 7 2
♦ 7 4 3
♣ 9 7 6 4

EAST
♠ K 10 9 8 4 3
♥ K
♦ Q 10 8
♣ Q J 5

SOUTH
♠ 7 2
♥ Q J 9 6 4
♦ A K J 6 2
♣ 3

The bidding:
North 1♠ East 2♥ South 3♥ West 3♥ Pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♠
Who knows whence tricks will come. It is a tossup who was more surprised at the 13th trick, declarer or the defenders.

The auction was straightforward. Once the heart fit was revealed, there was no reason for South to show that he had a two-suited hand. The less you tell the defenders, the more difficult the defense is likely to be.

Declarer rose with the ace of spades at trick one to cash dummy's ace-king of clubs for a spade discard. Next came the ace-king of diamonds and a diamond ruff, followed by a heart to East's king. Stripped of red cards, East had a choice of exiting with a spade, setting up dummy's jack, or the queen of clubs, setting up the table's ten. Since dummy was entryless, it seemed of no import, so East chose the queen of clubs, ruffed by declarer.

Declarer led the queen of trumps, taken by West's ace. Back came a spade, and declarer ruffed East's ten. The jack of hearts was cashed for declarer's ninth trick, reducing West to nothing but a trump and a club. Now declarer simply led a diamond, and West had no way out. He had to ruff, but then he could do no more than concede the game-going trick to the ten of clubs.

Note that it would not have mattered had West exited with the king of spades rather than a club. When in with the ace of hearts, West would have to get off play with a club, and the same ending would result.



"What's the paint-stripper of the day?"

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

There are some favourable influences but hard work is still required. You should try to keep things simple and to be methodical. Try to have a little more sympathy for others. Be patient.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will not be in the best of moods and should do your best not to lose your temper. You will have to do something to get rid of your resentments rather than allowing them to cloud your judgment.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

The prospects are good but hard work is still needed. You should think a little harder and longer before coming to a conclusion. You should try to not live purely on the material level. Be sincere.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will be able to make a few changes for the better. You will not be treated as fairly as you should be but you know how to make the best of it. You will be able to see things more clearly. Be firm.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You will be rather given to exaggerations and should try to counteract the tendency. You should take regular exercise but nothing you cannot keep up. Try not to get into other people's way. Be proud of yourself.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

You should try to be more approachable. Circumstances are more in your favour and you will be able to take advantage of a good opportunity.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You will have to be a little more careful about your expenditure. You will be a somewhat more persuasive but you must not think you will get your way in all things. You should try to curb your impatience. Be reasonable.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You will find it easier to make up your mind. You should try to avoid any kind of exaggerations. You would do well to show a little more goodwill. Be kindhearted.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You will tend to be a little on the nervous side. Avoid making a mountain out of molehill. Things are not as bad as they seem to be but the obstacles must not be ignored. You will be able to do a friend a great favour. Be sensible.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

The Moon's less favourable influence will tend to make you rather teisty so try hard to control yourself. You should do your best not to overtake yourself and do not have a late night. You should avoid acting on impulse. Be tolerant.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

You will tend to be in too great a hurry. You are subject to prevalently favourable influences and will be able to let common sense prevail. You will also be able to take advantage of a good opportunity.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will not find it quite so easy to adapt to changed circumstances. You must make sure you do not drive too fast or even recklessly. Take somewhat better care of your health. Be more moderate.

Select group changing the face of Asian politics

The strong women of Asia

By Donald MacIntyre

THEY are both outstandingly beautiful. They are both daughters of politicians brutally slaughtered in their prime. They both know what it is to galvanise a vast crowd through the power of public speaking. And they both have reputations for courage which outstrip many of the men who are their sworn political opponents.

Benazir Bhutto and Aung San Suu Kyi, each now playing a crucial role in the future of their turbulent countries, are the latest recruits to the front ranks of a select group which is changing the face of a continent — the strong women of Asia.

Mrs. Bandaranaike in Ceylon, Mrs. Gandhi in India, and Cory Aquino in the Philippines were there first of course. But both Bhutto, 34, and Suu Kyi, 41, have a hold over the ordinary people of Pakistan and Burma which marks them out as a new generation of women political leaders.

Two wholly unexpected events, the mysterious explosion in President Zia's Hercules C-130 three weeks ago, and the wave of urban demonstrations against the dreaded Burma Socialist Progressive Party's autocratic and isolationist 26-year-old

Like Corazon Aquino in the Philippines, and the opposition leaders in Bangladesh, Khaleda Zia and Hasina Sheikh Wajed, Suu Kyi of Burma and Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan are part of an emerging elite of women politicians in Asia who may have proved by the year 2000 that they have the stamina and durability necessary to see off their male rivals.

regime which erupted at the end of July, have catapulted the two women to the very threshold of power.

Benazir Bhutto is by far the best known. And unlike Suu Kyi, there is no enigma about her political ambitions. As leader of the Pakistan People's Party two years after her triumphant return from exile in Europe, Benazir knew that Zia, for 11 years the strong man of Pakistan, was a dark cloud over her hopes.

She has betrayed no public emotion over his death, beyond remarking that his career as President had both begun and ended in violence.

A diplomat remembers being told by Benazir when her father promoted Zia over the heads of several more senior generals to be his military chief that "Daddy's found this perfectly wonderful man to be in charge of the Army". Four years later Gen-

eral Zia had led a coup against her father and subsequently had him hanged.

It was, of course, the execution of her father which provided both the motive and the opportunity for Benazir to embark on a political career.

Motive, because Benazir believed she had a family duty to try to fulfil her father's destiny; opportunity, because of the special reverence which in Asia the daughters and widow of murdered popular political leaders command.

Certainly there had been little sign, during her carefree days as a graduate student at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, that she intended one day to lead her country. The first woman president of the Oxford Union, she was a star of the university's demanding social circuit; she drove a succession of fast sports cars; her parties were among the best in Oxford.

"They were always fun and there always seemed to be a plentiful supply of diplomatic gin," recalls one contemporary.

Another remembers that she never seemed deeply political. If anything she seemed more cut out for a career in Pakistan's diplomatic service. She would have been very good at it and she would have liked the life. At that time she could be detached about her homeland's political system.

One fellow student remembers saying to her ironically, on the eve of her father's fateful election victory in 1977: "Presumably the PPP will win by 99.9 per cent."

Back shot the reply: "Oh, be realistic darling — 99.7 per cent."

Benazir's secure world suddenly gave way with the Zia coup and her father's imprisonment. Oxford contemporaries who met her after that were struck by how she had been hardened by the experience. "She talked much more in political slogans, and a lot of the old gaiety had disappeared," said one.

Contrast

The seal on the contrast between Benazir's 20s and her 30s was set by her arranged marriage last year to Asif Ali Zardari. Both her sisters, and her brother, had married for love, and to those who had known the social life of the early Seventies it seemed inconceivable that she would agree to a traditional Muslim marriage to a man found for her by the Bhutto clan — even when the groom was polo-playing businessman from one of Sindh's richest families.

The union followed a year of exhaustive investigation of Asif's suitability not only by Benazir's redoubtable mother, Nusrat Bhutto, but by officials of the PPP as well.

It is true that Benazir was pleasantly surprised when she finally met her husband to be. But she had approached the match with a sort of cheerful resignation. "After all, it isn't easy to date boys in Pakistan,"



Benazir Bhutto: in quest of power

she had confided to an American woman friend.

The marriage was greeted with ecstatic popular acclaim, briefly marred only when one of the guests was felled by a stray bullet during the traditional nuptial fusillade of shots into the air. But what it proved above all was that Benazir's one irrevocable commitment was to political life in Pakistan.

It looks very much as if Suu Kyi has undergone a different, but in its own way as fundamental a conversion.

She had already married for love, to Michael Aris, a brilliant Englishman, the Oxford professor of Tibetan studies, and known to all their friends in England as a devoted husband. They have two sons.

She was educated in Burma and in India, where her mother was ambassador from 1960-67, before going through Oxford to a job in the UN — where a surprisingly high proportion of Burma's exiled intelligentsia still work. Most people thought that despite her close and continuing interest in her birthright country she would remain in England for life.

In April she went to Rangoon to care for her sick and ageing mother. Then came Sein

Lwin's accession to power and the bloodily suppressed street protests which followed it.

For Suu Kyi it was a powerful emotional experience to watch thousands of demonstrators demanding the political and economic freedom which the BSPP had denied her country for a generation. And they were carrying portraits of her own father at the head of the processions.

Revered

Aung San, probably the most revered of Burma's political martyrs, was one of the 30 comrades who vowed to liberate Burma in blood, siding first with the Japanese, then the British during the Second World War.

An idealist through and through, Aung San negotiated with the Atlee government for independence, but on its eve was gunned down by assassins, almost certainly engaged by Ne Win, once his comrade in arms, and the man who after ruling Burma for 26 years is probably still the key figure behind the BSPP.

Aung San left a son, Aung San Su and Suu Kyi, his two-year-old daughter. When the family came to London in 1953, they were given a home by Lord



Suu Kyi: the latest recruit to the politics of Asia

Gore Booth, who had been a friend when he was ambassador to Burma and who wrote, prophetically perhaps, in his autobiography that it remained his hope that both "exceptional young people" would "in time be able to do some service to their country, whose government in this time has done so little for them."

It was the turmoil on the streets of Rangoon and dozens of other Burmese cities which overnight transformed Suu Kyi from a private figure to a public one.

Of the enormous response which her presence has evoked among the protesting crowds in Rangoon she says: "That is because of my father. I'm under no illusion about that."

She added: "I suppose it is inevitable that people compare me to Benazir Bhutto because of our backgrounds and because of our fathers."

"But really there are great differences. She leads a political party and I do not belong to one. I don't want to be engaged in party politics, but in national politics."

The tradition of honouring a dead political leader's daughter is even more embedded in Buddhist culture than it is among Muslims. Friends say she is charming, intelligent and

articulate. Clare Hollingworth, the celebrated journalist who has followed Burma's fortunes closely, says: "She has the manner and presence of a very senior Whitehall civil servant."

In a television interview last month, Suu Kyi insisted that she had no plans for a post-dark age Burma. But she affirmed, "I have never been away in my thoughts. I have never been away from my country and my people." And she added simply: "The Burmese people loved my father very much. They are ready to support me because I'm my father's daughter."

Like the opposition leaders in adjacent Bangladesh Khaleda Zia and Hasina Sheikh Wajed respectively, the widow and daughter of two distinguished politicians, Suu Kyi and Benazir Bhutto have a prominence which testifies to the bloody history of post-colonial Asia and its high death toll of prominent political leaders.

But they are also part of an emerging elite — which extends beyond the sub-continent across — Asia — of women who may have proved by the year 2000 that they have the considerable stamina and durability necessary to see off their male rivals.



Left to right: Corazon Aquino of the Philippines, Khaleda Zia and Hasina Sheikh Wajed of Bangladesh



Advice on overweight children

IF you know a youngster who is already chubby or comes from an overweight family, experts advise following these dos and don'ts:

- Don't put a child on a diet to lose weight. "No person should impose a degree of starvation on another," says Elynn Satter, a Madison, Wisconsin, dietitian and social worker who specialises in eating problems. "It makes a child feel that he is not being cared for and fearful that he is not going to get enough to eat." The result: a preoccupation with food that may even lead to obesity.
- Don't tell a youngster she's fat or talk to her about her weight unless she asks.
- Don't bribe or reward a child by giving or withholding food.
- Do help the child learn to heed his own body cues of hunger and satiety. A baby who has had enough turns away from the breast or the bottle. Respect his judgment.
- Don't forbid snacks, says Elynn Satter. But set a regular snack time and don't allow a child to nibble around the clock.
- Do make sensible rules for watching TV. Experts blame TV watching for part of the rise in childhood obesity.

Fifties fashion back in vogue

By Kathryn Samuel

IN THE history of Hollywood style, no era is quite so nostalgically beloved or so frequently revisited as a source of inspiration for fashion as the Fifties.

On and off the screen the cool unglitzy glamour of stars such as Grace Kelly, Audrey Hepburn and Lauren Bacall became a remarkably long-lasting ideal for women everywhere.

The clothes they wore that set that identifiable style had their roots in the world of couture, a world that was energetically re-establishing itself after the Second World War and was quick to realise the unique fashion communication value of the silver screen.

Givenchy's partnership with Hepburn in films such as the Funny Face and Breakfast at Tiffany's proved the most enduring and influential on accessible mass market fashion.

Today there are intriguing parallels with the Fifties era. The film medium may no longer be the catalyst but, spearheaded by Christian Lacroix, a newly vigorous couture has once again become a force that influences mainstream fashion.



Christian Lacroix: under his leadership, couture has once again become a force that influences mainstream fashion

No longer considered an afterthought operation from ready-to-wear, couture is the place for experimentation with excellence and style, a mood that may well be adapted for more modest means.

This rejuvenation has reflected much of the soft but precise tailoring of the Fifties, the confident but utterly feminine glamour, and the frivolous, scrupulously accessorising of gloves, high-heels and handbags.

Present couture loves Fifties style and the adulation has filtered throughout fashion. It is a

mood that can put a glamorous overlay on the most mundane of Eighties style.

For more formal occasions suits or dresses must be fitted, full-skirted and short in crisp, substantial fabrics, either pique or cloque or floral print cottons.

Dresses often have halter necks with button-through, circular long skirts. They demand witty accessories — the bold, big hat with the spotty gloves, the high strappy sandals and dramatic jewellery.

In sporty vein, Fifties style lingers on with the current crop of pedal-pusher pants or flared-leg shorts that fit well over the bottom, teamed with traditional cardigans or cropped, midriff-baring tops.

On the beach, the Fifties woman looks soignée rather than sporty, in graphic or draped swimsuits. She has no inhibitions about wearing a towelling wrap, turban or the signature incognito sunglasses.

Uncontrolled nostalgia for any era is never successful, so with this Eighties view of the Fifties comes a certain restraint, a reflection of Hollywood rather than its full, big-green flamboyance. A look that is equally successful in the modest as it is in the West Coast glare.

Planning a new version of the John and Yoko story

By Iris Krasnow

WASHINGTON, (UPI): When Yoko Ono married John Lennon nearly two decades ago she was flung into a vortex where pain has outmuscled the peace they once preached in the nude during a bed-in.

Beatle fans considered her the dragon lady who broke up the band. Her strange music — banshee rock that prophetically barked to punk — got trashed. Her hold on her husband was portrayed as a headlock.

After Lennon was murdered on Dec 9, 1980, at the entrance of their home, the century-old Dakota on Central Park West, the world sent Yoko Ono its first collective outpouring of love. She was revered as "the keeper of the wishing well," the messenger of their dream for a tranquil planet. For some critics, that too was short-lived.

She has been accused of cashing in on Lennon's name while touring the country promoting his prints, sculptures and signed lithographs, a focus of her recent years. And now a new book, *The Lives of John Lennon* by Albert Goldman depicts their marriage as drug-filled, sordid and twisted.

Yet this small and strong Japanese woman, wearing a heart-shaped diamond from Lennon at her throat, has always survived. Her broad face is remarkably unlined, given that it belongs to a 55-year-old who chain-smokes long Brown Sherman cigarettes.

The shrieking balladeer

appears sedate and collegiate in a navy blue v-neck sweater and matching wool skirt. Her thick black ponytail is secured by a brown elastic band with plastic ball closures, the kind little girls wear.

Prefers

Yoko, who prefers a first name reference to a last, talked about her resilience during a trip to Washington where Lennon's art works were presented at a gallery as they have been in major cities across the country. These events attract rock concert-sized crowds.

"I knew the first thing people would say is 'are you making any money out of this and if so why?'" She says about her business arrangement with Marigold Enterprises Ltd., the firm that licenses the art. "But it's wrong for John to be a charity case. It's wrong to say 'this is for charity so please buy.' John is an artist...."

So I'm not about to announce that I'm going to give everything to charity, and go to the mountains. I mean, there's life going on with us. We are living in the city, and we are going to survive there.

"I do feel that I'm assaulted, but of course there's the other side. There are so many smiling faces, they are so emotional, some of them are crying because they are so happy to touch these objects and to own them. So I'm doing it for them, not for the cynics," she shrugs, lighting a fresh cigarette from a glowing butt.

"I was at an LA gallery, and as usual I was thanking people who came and saying 'I love you.' And some cynic said

"why do you say I love you?" Well, why am I going all the way out to these cities and sticking myself in a crowd if I'm not going there to say 'I love you?'"

"John's spirit is reflected in these drawings, and by being exposed to the warmth, the sense of humour, the familiarity...." she trails off, looking at a postcard of Lennon's "family" sketch of Yoko, John and Sean. "That is good because it reminds people of the side of life which is the basis of humanity, that we're just family, having fun."

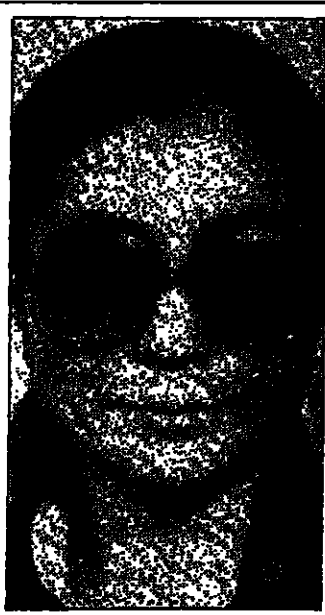
By choice, the powerful legacy of Lennon continues to dominate Yoko's eight years after his death. She plans to return to Los Angeles at the end of September to be present when Lennon's star is added to the Hollywood walk of fame. The following week she will attend the west coast premiere of the documentary film *Imagine*.

Her own art is "very back-seat" right now.

Promote

"You know, I feel like I have all the time in the world for my own work. So I've set that aside to promote John's work. It's the first time (since his death) that I feel so good about it. The fact that John's work is again being discovered and people are loving it."

"This was a very talented guy. He was an art student before he became a rocker. Even as a young boy, John was always drawing things. I have some of the drawings he did when he was 9 and it's just incredible stuff. And by the way, Sean has the same



Yoko Ono: Beatle fans considered her the dragon lady who broke up the band

ability." Yoko says of their son who turns 13 in October.

"John got a lot of flak from the art world, just like I got a lot of flak from the music world. Despite all that, I really think it's the art world that needs John more than John needs the art world. You see, each of his drawings has a real power of truth, and that's real power."

"He didn't think of it as an intellectual way. Just like his songs, you know, it just came to him and he had to draw it. It was an overflowing of his creativity."

Yoko views her spontaneous nature — "I don't think ahead" — as a shield that has protected and propelled her in a life surrounded by barbs and stretches of quicksand. But there is one plan in the works, her account of the much-told story of John and Yoko.

"I'm trying to put some book together, but it's taking a long time just to sort of straighten my head about it," she says.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: I know of a person with AIDS who now also suffers with TB — any connection?

ANSWER: Any condition that significantly reduces the body's ability to fight infection can pave the way for tuberculosis. Typically this airborne disease attacks the lungs and is most prevalent in nursing homes and prisons, where close quarters can cause the virus to spread rapidly. Likewise, infected urbanites, including the homeless and a growing number of immigrants from countries where TB is endemic, add to the problem because they are unlikely to seek help, either out of poverty or ignorance regarding the disease.

The fact is, approximately 10 million people in this country are infected with TB virus. And with the alarming increase in AIDS cases, the numbers continue to climb. This is due in part to the tricky nature of the disorder. It's sometimes hard to detect, can mimic other conditions, it's not easily cured and if not treated properly can come back long after the initial infection disappears. For example, in the elderly (as well as children

AIDS PATIENTS MAY BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO TUBERCULOSIS

younger than 5) the classic TB symptoms — fever, night sweats, weight loss and bloody sputum — are not always present. For those eventually diagnosed as active, it means a six-to-nine-month course of treatment with multiple antituberculous drugs.

For people infected with AIDS, the story can be much grimmer. In fact, the inability to fight TB is often a person's first clue that the AIDS virus is present. Without immunity, the infection won't heal and the TB bacilli may spread to other body parts such as the testicles, brain or heart. It is therefore important (as in all TB cases) to seek prompt medical attention, as AIDS-related TB requires intensive care and drug therapy.

QUESTION: I'm facing some serious surgery in the near future, and all this talk about catching diseases from transfused blood has me really worried. What is being done to protect patients such as myself from such risks?

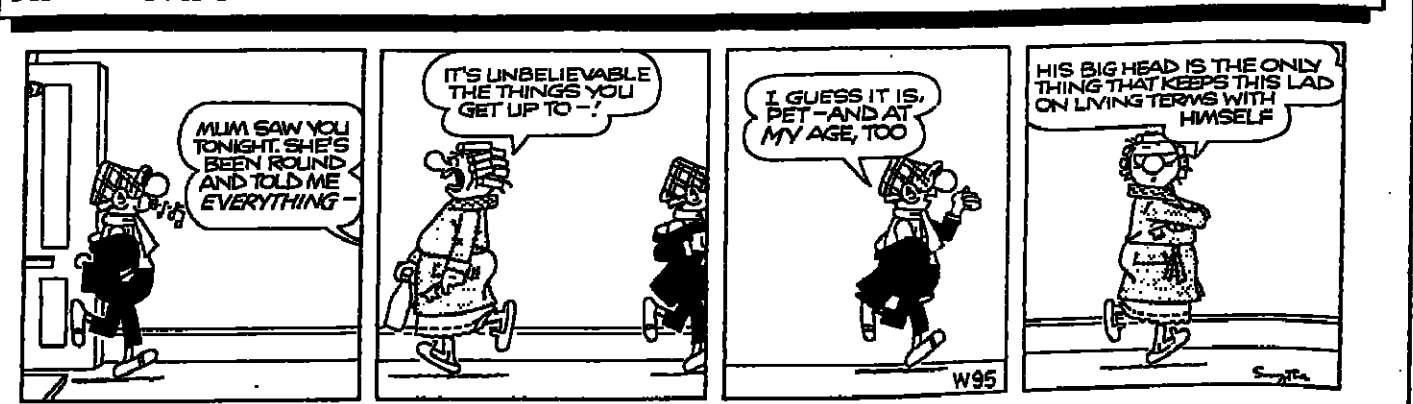
ANSWER: A very effective method is used to screen blood products for the AIDS virus now, so there is no longer a risk of

contracting AIDS from a transfusion. However, we still are working on eliminating hepatitis and other viral infections from our blood supply. Blood to be transfused is subjected to rigorous screening tests, but they are not 100 per cent accurate and, unfortunately, a blood transfusion still carries a risk of infection to the recipient.

Until scientists can develop better testing for blood products, patients and physicians are wise to consider use of only donated blood (not purchased through a commercial enterprise) and to use blood transfusions only when necessary. Few would argue that blood transfusions, when used judiciously, are lifesavers. The important point here is that a transfusion should not be taken lightly. More and more patients are considering "autologous blood banking," which means that you "donate" your own blood for your own future use. This is especially helpful to patients whose surgery is elective and can be scheduled far enough in advance for autologous blood banking to occur.

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ANDY CAPP



By Smith

BUSINESS & FINANCE

GCC officials to discuss industrial strategy

RIYADH, Sept 18, (KUNA): The preliminary committee of the Gulf Co-operation Council industrial undersecretaries will begin a two-day meeting tomorrow to prepare for the 7th meeting of the GCC Industrial Committee to be held in Riyadh the second week of October.

GCC Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs Dr Abdullah Al Quais said that committee members will discuss co-ordination and encouragement of industrial projects, unified systems of investing foreign capital and patents of inventions.

House seeks to tighten penalties for insider traders

WASHINGTON, Sept 18, (AP): The House of Representatives has unanimously approved a bill that would increase fines against convicted Wall Street insider traders, lengthen their prison terms and penalise investment firms that permit the practice.

The measure was passed on Wednesday by 410-0, but its fate is unclear in the Senate, where the legislation may not advance unless the House approves a Senate-passed banking bill.

Meeting set over textile problem between UAE and US

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates, Sept 18, (AP): Officials of the United States and the United Arab Emirates will meet in Washington at the end of September or early October to find a solution to a problem related to UAE textile exports, US diplomatic sources reported today.

Four notes sent by the US government to the UAE have sparked fears among the textile industry in the UAE that the American government may put a quota on the cotton and synthetic clothes it exports to the US.

However, a US diplomat in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi said the United States will not impose a quota on the UAE textile exports, but ask the country to limit its shipments to the United States voluntarily. The US has signed similar agreements with 46 other countries.

The US imports of textile products from the UAE have increased from 17,664 dozen pieces in 1986 to 139,074 dozen in the year ending February 1988 or an increase of 375 per cent, the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The UAE's textile industry is centred in the Jebel Ali free zone in the emirate of Dubai and much of the workforce, management and capital is foreign.

Market keeps cool

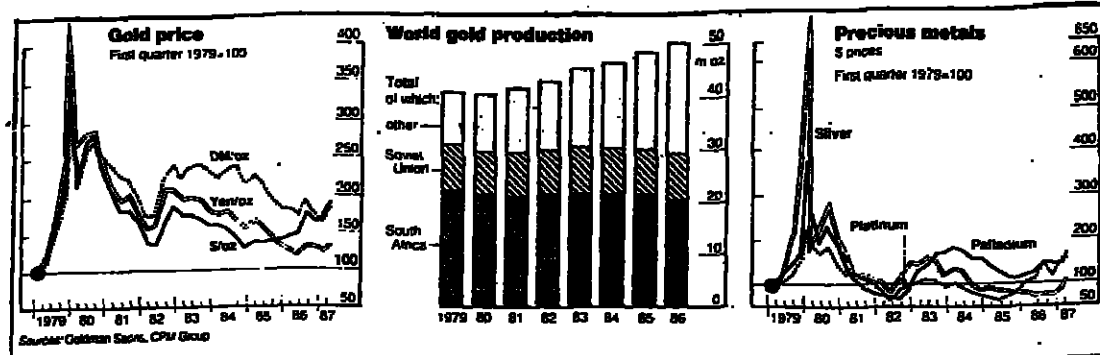
Gold prices set to fall further

By M.C. Bose

INFLATION-SENSITIVE gold prices have tumbled to an 18-month low to close at \$411.70 in New York on Friday. The prices appear to be headed even lower, said local market dealers. Gold has not traded that low since March 1987. Meanwhile, the local gold market was quiet yesterday.

Market dealers attributed that zigzag in prices to world oil markets. And while some traders doubt the price will drop dramatically soon, most are expecting the price to fall to the low \$400 level, or below, in the near term.

Factors
Another dealer in Kuwait told the Arab Times that many people including expatriates sold gold they kept as an investment and are waiting for the price to drop, still further before buying again. "Right now there is no rush in the market because most of the



Kuwaitis and expatriates are either on vacation or just back from holidays," he added.

He said that another contributing factor in the depressed market was the release of the US Producer Price Index, which rose 0.3 per cent in August, excluding food and energy prices. On Wednesday when the United States reported that its deficit shrank to \$9.5 billion in July from \$13.22 billion in June, many decided that prospects for the dollar had

brightened. The dealer said people who had hoarded gold as hedge against inflation were slightly upset because the metal has been in a headlong decline during the last week.

Evidence
"Steep declines in oil and gold cushioned the market from more serious damage," he added.

Another dealer said there was evidence of big orders from the

Gulf countries. Others added the Soviet Union had unloaded a large amount of gold in the Swiss market to raise funds.

Another trader said the market will pick up if we see new inflationary trend. "But for the short-term I see very little potential for that," he said.

"Gold is a favoured investment right now," M.M. Ramachandran of Atlas Jewellery said. Gold, unlike bond or shares, pays no income, but it is widely

seen as secure at times of crises. Ramachandran said that during the last few days the market had witnessed downward trend in gold prices. He attributed that steep drop to the slide in oil prices. Better-than-expected US trade data gave the dollar an upward push.

Decline

However, the drop in gold in terms of KD has not been in proportion to its decline in the world markets, as the price of gold is quoted in dollars.

"While an ounce of gold was costing \$455, the 22 carat gold used to sell around KD29,500 for eight grammes. Although gold has now crossed the \$413 mark, the cost of 22 carat gold reached only about KD28,200," he said.

Other dealers believe that gold could rally again if Michael Dukakis wins the Nov 8 US election, where as George Bush will have a neutral to slightly bearish effect on gold.

Local contractors ready to offer expertise

Contacts under way to clinch Iraqi deal

By Jadranka Porter

CONTACTS are under way between officials in Baghdad and representatives of the Gulf states' contracting firms which are hoping to participate in the rebuilding of post-war Iraq.

Representatives of contractors' unions from the GCC states, working through a co-ordinating office in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, have collectively approached Baghdad to explore business opportunities there.

Iraqi officials are expected to brief the delegation on Iraq's development projects to help the contractors determine the role they can play in the reconstruction effort.

Expertise
The chairman of the Kuwaiti Contractors' Union, Abdul Hadi Al Dosari, said local contractors are ready to put their expertise and skill at the disposal of Iraqi authorities.

The construction industry in Kuwait hit an all time low between 1986 and 1988 although the

recession began in 1983. The reasons behind the slump are the Al Manakh crisis, declining oil revenues and security concerns due to the Gulf war. Those concerns resulted in a shifting of priorities in public spending in the Gulf states.

In addition, the urgency to start new projects faded as the basic portion of the infrastructure requirements in the country was met.

The average annual volume of work in the three years dropped to less than 30 per cent of what it used to be between 1981 and 1983.

This is a far cry from the boom years when reputable Kuwaiti firms branched out to carry out projects in Iraq, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and even further afield in Asia and Africa.

But the recession took its toll in other Gulf states too, and consequently Kuwait's contractors lost those markets.

The union pointed out that contractors in Kuwait fared better than those in other Gulf states

during the recession years.

There are some 300 large contracting firms registered with the Central Tenders Committee. But there are hundreds more registered with the municipality and other public authorities. All have been locked in a struggle for survival.

The market has been lopsided — on the one hand the volume of construction work shrank considerably, on the other there was an over abundance of construction services.

"The competition became crazy and some bidders offered below-the-cost quotations. What is more, some quotations have been even lower than the budget estimates by project owners," said Al Dosari.

Competition
In the feverish atmosphere created by the cut-throat competition, the companies which jumped on the band-wagon during the boom years and were more interested in speculation than professional standards began squeezing out the reputa-

ble firms. The system allowed them and still allows them to operate.

Before the recession these companies were seeking quick profits to speculate with advance payments on the stock market. Later they were undercutting prices under the pressure of their internal problems.

Contractors bent on speculation created a series of problems which reached national proportions.

Opportunities
They deprived the qualified contractors of business opportunities. They caused delays in completion of projects and were responsible for inferior quality of work, disputes and unjustified claims, all of which resulted in cost overruns.

"In the end the national economy is paying the price. The chaos in the construction industry has had negative effect on project owners, reputable contractors and banks," Al Dosari said.

The reputable contractors

who have been in the business for more than three decades faced uneasy options.

They could act in the same manner as their less professional competitors or they could liquidate their assets and reinvest the profits.

Instead, they chose to weather the crisis by reducing overhead, eliminating profit margins from quotations, postponing expansion plans and paying necessary costs from their reserves and capital resources.

"They have been operating at the very minimum of their capacity, but they never lost hope that circumstances will improve," Al Dosari said.

The reputable contractors are now pinning their hopes on the union's efforts to reorganise the construction industry with help from the Kuwait Engineering Society and government bodies. The reform will draw on lessons learnt in Kuwait and other countries and will comply with the principles of Kuwait's economic policy.

Policy co-ordination at last bearing fruit

US and allies to seek closer economic ties

WASHINGTON, Sept 18, (Reuters): Encouraged by the results of economic policy co-ordination since 1985, leading non-communist industrial nations are looking at ways to strengthen a process which officials say is here to stay.

The ideas, ranging from a US proposal to keep closer track of major economic indicators to International Monetary Fund managing director Michel Camdessus's vision of a new global monetary system, will get an airing when the IMF opens its annual meeting in West Berlin on Thursday.

Rates
The co-ordination process has not always been smooth since finance ministers and central bank governors from the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain and France — the Group of Five — agreed in New York on September 22, 1985, to drive down the value of the dollar

relative to other major currencies.

A row between Bonn and Washington over interest rates shook market confidence and contributed to last October's share price crash, experts believe, while as recently as January the dollar had to be saved from free fall with massive Central Bank buying.

But recent economic trends have convinced officials that their policy co-ordination is at last bearing fruit.

Industrial economies are set to grow by a strong 3.8 per cent this year, according to the IMF, while the US trade deficit for July fell to \$9.5 billion, the lowest monthly level since late 1984.

"There's greater promise of continuing adjustment than seemed possible in the recent past," Assistant US Treasury Secretary David Mulford, one of the principal architects of the policy co-ordination process,

said recently.

As politicians increasingly see the benefits of taking international considerations into account when drafting national policies, proponents such as Mulford hope the process will develop a life of its own that enables it to survive changes of government and key personnel.

Co-operation

New US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, said last week he would take over where his predecessor, James Baker, left off, and comments by the two US presidential candidates, Vice-President George Bush and Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis, suggest they too would favour close co-operation.

However, the complexity of the issues involved, domestic political constraints and worries about surrendering sovereignty over economic decisions mean that enhancements to the process

are bound to be gradual and piecemeal.

And, as a senior European official based in Washington said, co-ordination is no substitute for good domestic policies.

"Co-operation has served the financial system very well, but one has to be very careful not to expect too much of it. You have to put your own house in order first," he said.

Effort

The housekeeping that this and many other officials have in mind is a serious effort by the United States after the November 8 presidential and congressional elections to cut its \$50-billion-a-year budget deficit, which is seen by most experts as the biggest threat to global economic stability.

The United States, for its part, still feels West Germany could grow faster to suck in more US goods, a senior Reagan adminis-

tration official said.

Despite these undercurrents of tension, officials seem headed for West Berlin fairly pleased with their efforts. Though they are determined not to be complacent, they see grounds for confidence.

Accord

The dollar, after rebounding from January's lows just above 1.56 West German marks, is back around the 1.80 mark, when the major industrial nations agreed in Paris to try to put a floor under the American currency.

Indeed, instead of worrying how to defend the dollar, the Reagan administration had to reassure its allies last month that it had no intention of letting the dollar, buoyed by the improving US trade balance, soar out of control.

Total exports on the rise

Kuwait's current account surplus drops

DESPITE the increase in the trade balance surplus, the preliminary data show a decline in the current account surplus from KD 1.6 billion in 1986 to KD 1.2 billion 1987. The decline is mainly due to the decline in the services account surplus, and a relative steadiness in unrequited transfers. This last factor (unrequited transfers) is always on the debit side of the balance of payments, because it represents payments made by residents (government and private sector) to non-resident individuals as well as non-resident public and private institutions, according to CBK annual Economic Report.

Generally, the 1987 indicators reflect active foreign demand for Kuwait's commodity exports, especially oil exports, due to certain regional and international developments. On the regional level, demand for oil increased as a result of consumer countries' fears of a breakdown in oil supplies from the Gulf because of the continued 'tanker war' there.

Internationally, however, the oil market witnessed the return of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to the fixed price and quota system by fixing a production ceiling to the member countries.

Demand
Moreover, the drop in the US dollar exchange rate (the currency used in oil pricing) has underpinned foreign demand for oil.

On the other hand, the prices and volume of Kuwait oil exports have been supported by the marketing policy adopted by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), which aimed at increasing the portion of refined products to total oil exports.

In 1987, KPC was able to market 48.9 per cent of its oil exports in the form of refined products by diversifying its retail marketing outlets in Western Europe and other countries.

In the meantime, exports of crude oil and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) accounted for about

48.6 per cent and 2.5 per cent of total exports respectively.

KPC's marketing policy has not only sustained the level of prices and volumes of exports, but also helped to raise capacity utilisation ratios in Kuwait's refineries (Shuaiba, Mina Abdullah, Mina Al Ahmadi).

In 1987, the total value of exports (oil and non-oil), after a decline of 33 per cent in the previous year, grew by 11 per cent to KD 2306 million. This growth is basically attributed to the 13 per cent rise in the value of oil exports, resulting from increased prices and volumes of these exports.

Value

The total value of non-oil exports in 1987, in contrast, continued its downward trend which started in 1982, because of the decline in the value of both re-exports and non-monetary gold exports by KD 16 million and KD 4 million respectively, while the value of non-oil exports of Kuwaiti origin maintained its

1986 level.

The total value of Kuwaiti exports is divided into oil exports (89.5 per cent) and non-oil exports (10.5 per cent). Non-oil exports (re-exports and export of Kuwaiti origin) comprise foodstuffs, chemical fertilisers, transport equipment and metal pipes. Available data indicate that Kuwait exports 50.3 per cent of its total value of exports to five countries: Japan (17.3 per cent), Italy (9.6 per cent), Singapore (8.3 per cent), Holland (8.2 per cent), and Taiwan (6.9 per cent).

On the imports side, the value of Kuwait's total merchandise imports in 1987 fell slightly to KD 1,314 million (preliminary data), mainly, due to reduced activity in re-exports sector. Imports for other purposes than re-exports show some signs of recovery. The increase in import finance by local banks, as previously mentioned, provides some indication to this recovery.

(Continued on Page 11)

World Business Summary

Turkey, Libya sign pact to boost economic ties

ANKARA, Sept 18, (Reuters): Turkey and Libya today signed an economic protocol aimed at expanding trade and moving towards solving a dispute over payments to Turkish contractors. The official Anatolian News Agency said the protocol, signed in Ankara by Central Bank Governor Rustu Saracoglu and his Libyan counterpart Recep Zarruk, extended Libya new credits to encourage trade. "The protocol introduces a new dimension to our trade... Libya will pay 45 per cent of the imports it makes from Turkey in cash and the remaining 55 per cent within the framework of the protocol," Saracoglu was quoted as saying. Anatolian said Turkey sought to boost exports to Libya to \$500 million a year, from \$146.7 million in 1987. Libyan exports, mainly oil, totalled \$385 million last year. About 25,000 Turkish work in Libya on large-scale building projects worth \$2.1 billion, with a total estimated value of \$400 million. On the dispute over payments for contractors, Saracoglu said: "The Libyans agreed to give Turkey oil worth the amount it owes Turkish contractors until the end of this year. The amount of oil will be determined at forthcoming talks." Saracoglu said a delegation would visit Libya for talks on letters of guarantee. Libya had objected to accepting letters of guarantee from Turkish banks for major construction projects and wanted central bank guarantees instead.

Minister seeks Italy's support on Egyptian debts

CAIRO, Sept 18, (Reuters): An Egyptian government minister left for Italy today seeking support in helping Egypt's ailing economy. The trip by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Boutros Ghali precedes a planned tour by President Hosni Mubarak to several European countries in the coming week. The visits are part of a new campaign by Mubarak to secure Western backing in tackling Egypt's economic problems. Mubarak is due to visit Yugoslavia, Britain, France and West Germany. He might also stop in Italy ahead of annual international Monetary Fund (IMF)-World Bank meetings which will be held in Madrid on Thursday. Egypt has urged seven leading industrialised states to continue backing Cairo in slow-moving negotiations with the IMF help and debt rescheduling. After inconclusive talks last week, Mubarak accused the fund of being a "doctor" prescribing a huge dose of medicine in one go instead of daily pills. The IMF wants Egypt to slash its \$10 billion budget (\$2.2 billion) deficit, increase domestic interest rates and raise the prices of state-subsidised fuel and food. The IMF also wants removal of state subsidies in 1977 provoked street riots. Ghali said he carried with him a letter from Mubarak to Italy's Prime Minister Ciriaco De Mita on Egyptian economic ties with international bodies and bilateral ties. He said his one-day talks with Italian officials would cover Egyptian relations with international economic agencies. A new IMF accord is vital for Egypt for an expected Egyptian request to the Paris Club of creditor governments for rescheduling at least \$5 billion of official debt instalments due between last July 1 and the end of 1989. Egypt rescheduled payments of more than \$6 billion on its \$45 billion foreign debt up to the end of last June.

Iranian exports to Bonn increase threefold

NICOSIA, Cyprus, Sept 18, (AP): Trade between Iran and West Germany is booming, according to figures given yesterday by a West German minister in Tehran and reported by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency. Deputy Economic Minister Dieter Von Wurzen was quoted by IRNA as saying in an interview that Iranian exports to his country during 1987 reached one billion marks (\$1.6 billion), three times the figure for the previous year. The agency, which is monitored in Nicosia, quoted Wurzen as also saying that West German exports to Iran for the same period stood at 2,358 billion marks (\$1.31 billion). Wurzen said the Iranian exports included both oil and non-oil products, but the agency did not provide a breakdown. It quoted him as adding however that his country would triple its oil purchases from Iran this year. He added that in addition to contributing to post-war reconstruction in Iran, following the end of the eight-year war with Iraq, West Germany would also train Iranian manpower, set up factories, transfer technology and implement other projects in Iran. Wurzen said the joint Iranian-West German economic commission, which will meet next year, will try to balance the trade between the two countries. IRNA said it interviewed Wurzen at the 14th Tehran international fair, which is attended by 36 nations this year. Iran is West Germany's biggest trading partner in the Middle East and trade relations between the two continued throughout the war years.

Increased business inventories suggests economic growth

WASHINGTON, Sept 18, (AP): July business inventories rose at the slowest rate in 11 months, the government said yesterday, suggesting that underlying US economic growth remains strong despite a pause in business sales. The Commerce Department said inventories rose 0.3 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$733.7 billion. It was the 19th consecutive gain, but the smallest since a 0.2 per cent increase in August 1987. Economists sometimes take rising inventories as a sign of weakness, fearing that too many goods piling up on shelves and backlogs will trigger production cutbacks and layoffs at factories. However, they point out that the buildup over the last year and a half has been accompanied by strong sales, despite a dip in July. "They key thing to me is that inventories are remaining very moderate, so basically the implication is for strong third and fourth quarter growth," said Robert Wescott, chief economist of the US consulting firm Alphametrics. Business sales fell 0.2 per cent in July to \$487.7 billion, the first decline since November when some buyers were spooked by the October stock market crash. However, the slight drop followed a very strong 1.4 per cent jump in June, the second best in more than a year. "When you put June and July together, sales are still growing strongly," said James Annable, chief economist of First National Bank of Chicago. "The fundamental message that comes out of it is we're not in a period of excessive inventory buildup. If the economy does slow, it's not going to be in order to work down inventories."

Hamleys is up for sale

LONDON, Sept 18, (Reuters): Hamleys, the British toyshop that has enchanted children for 228 years, is up for sale. And it may go to an American, Japanese or Hong Kong buyer. British conglomerate Lloyds Queensway Plc, the present owner, said on Thursday it intended to sell the toy store located on London's elegant Regent Street as part of moves to streamline its business. Hamleys' patrons include Britain's Royal Family, Jordan's King Hussein, the Sultan of Brunei and pop star Michael Jackson. "We are looking for the highest possible price," said Graham Watson, a director of Noble Grossart Ltd, said Graham handling the sale. "People... are telling us Hamleys is worth \$40 million (\$67 million)." It will invite bids by October 31 and announce the name of the successful buyer at the end of October. "There has been a great deal of interest from the US, Japan and Hong Kong," he said. "Four to five major US investment banks along with some big US retailing groups have shown interest and media suggested US toy retailers like Schwartz might be interested. Hamleys has been a part of London life since Cornhill hoops and wooden horses."

CURRENCY & BUSINESS

Dollar steady

Gold drops sharply, oil prices dip

LONDON, Sept. 18, (Reuters). Gold fell sharply and oil prices dipped, but both the dollar and shares firmed last week ahead of the annual World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings opening in West Berlin on Thursday.

New York gold futures touched 18-month lows on Friday, with the October contract near the psychological \$400 an ounce level before settling at \$412.90, down 6.90.

Bullion analysts said the market tone remained bearish on reports of sales by producers Australia and the Soviet Union.

Precious metals speculators feel gold is too low, "but the lack of an upside correction is frustrating a lot of traders," said Tom Griffo of Cargill Investor Services.

The dollar and stock markets got a mid-week boost from a big improvement in the US monthly trade deficit for July.

Lower crude prices this month

have generally claimed fears of rising inflation because cheaper oil cuts industry's costs.

However, Britain, Western Europe's biggest oil producer, was an exception. On Friday, it reported its highest year-on-year inflation — 5.7 per cent — for almost three years with more monthly increases in a booming economy likely until early 1989.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Nigel Lawson took the sting out of the announcement by warning markets on Wednesday the rise would be bigger than expected and calling it a "temporary blip."

Reaction
As a traditional hedge against inflation, gold bore the brunt of the market reaction to the lower oil prices and traders said investors did not seem interested in bullion.

Spot gold prices recovered in Hong Kong yesterday to close at \$412.25 an ounce, against \$411.35 in New York and \$412 in London on Friday. But Hong Kong dealers said sentiment remained

bearish on concern of more producer selling and weak oil prices.

Oil itself was pushed up at first as the market fretted about the damage that Hurricane Gilbert might do to the Texas oil industry, but then it fell back as those concerns abated and traders once again focused on OPEC overproduction.

"The (oil) markets were a little unhinged this week," said Andrew Lebow, analyst with E.D. and F. Man International Inc.

Down
Britain's North Sea Brent blend, the most widely traded international grade of crude, fell 35 cents in the United States on Friday to \$13.35 a barrel for October loading, down just 10 cents on the week.

An announcement that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) price committee would meet at an undetermined venue probably Bali — on September

25 and 26 did little to support prices.

The five-nation committee last met in Switzerland on August 3, but took no specific measures to boost prices which are well below the 13-nation organisation's \$18 a barrel target.

Production
OPEC president Riwanu Lukman said in an interview with Reuters on Friday the group's August production was around 19.5 million barrels per day (BPD) but would probably be lower this month. The organisation has a ceiling of 15.06 million BPD, excluding Iraq, which is estimated to be pumping around 2.7 million BPD.

The dollar ended the week steady with dealers apparently reluctant to buy it heavily and push its value up, thus running the risk of incurring punitive Central Bank intervention.

During the IMF/World Bank meetings, ministers and central bankers of the Group of Seven industrial nations will discuss

their economic policy co-ordination introduced first to trim the dollar from peaks in early 1985 and then to steady it after it hit all-time traded lows last January.

"Ahead of the G-7 meeting it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to challenge the central banks," said one London currency dealer on Friday. "Why try and start a losing battle?"

The dollar closed on Friday in New York at 1.8712 West German marks and 134.08 Japanese yen against 1.8510 and 133.70 a week earlier. It got a boost on Wednesday when the US said its trade deficit for July was down substantially to \$9.53 billion from a revised \$13.22 billion in June.

Share markets were generally firmer. New York's Dow Jones industrial average closed on Friday up 29.34 points on the week at 2,098.15. London's FTSE index was up 28.3 at 1,766.7 and Tokyo's Nikkei average was ahead 219.28 at 27,866.38.

Bundesbank's tight monetary stance likely to remain unchanged

Pace of US economic growth slows as inflation fears recede

THE market anxiously awaited the release of the trade figure over the week and reacted strongly to the much better than expected data. With a 23.7 per cent fall from June to July, the deficit was the lowest since December 1984.

As a consequence the dollar moved ahead against the major currencies reaching DM1.87 and Y134.0. The lower import numbers and level exports were interpreted as an indication that the economy could be cooling and hence suggested less requirement for the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates.

Therefore bonds and equities responded positively to the trade data although latter negatively affected by a sharp rise in oil prices, a stronger than expected increase in US industrial production and a further rise in capacity utilisation.

Current account balance fell by 9.8 per cent to \$33.3 billion in the second quarter from the revised \$36.94 billion figure.

Housing completions increased by 0.3 per cent in July to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.506 million units. The July rise followed a revised 3.6 per cent rise in June completions.

Merchandise trade deficit decreased by 28 per cent from a revised \$13.22 billion in June to

\$9.53 billion in July.

Merchandise exports increased by 0.7 per cent to \$26.47 billion in July on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Merchandise imports fell 8.9 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis to \$35.99 billion.

Retail sales fell 0.2 per cent to a seasonally adjusted \$133.5 billion and was the first decline since April 1988.

Industrial production was up 0.2 per cent in August after a revised increase of 1.0 per cent in July.

Capacity utilisation rose to 83.7 per cent in August compared with 83.6 per cent in July. Business inventories increased 0.3 per cent in July compared with 0.8 per cent in June.

Slowdown
The US market has recovered confidence on the back of the good trade data released last week. With a slowdown in domestic consumption and retail sales, suggests that the economy is now growing at a slower pace, fears of inflation have therefore receded and expectations that for the time being the Federal Reserve's action is expected to be neutral.

With no significant major data releases this week for the dollar, the unit can be expected to remain firm, continuing to ben-

efit from last week's trade numbers. However, the dollar's upside potential still remains limited with traders wary of central bank intervention and the erosion of competitiveness if the dollar is taken too far ahead. Trading ranges for the coming week are: Y 132-135, DM 1.84-1.89.

In Britain fears of inflation reappeared as retail sales, earnings, industrial production and retail prices, rose sharply in August displaying that the economy is likely to be growing at an unsustainable level.

This sentiment was reinforced with a stronger than expected rise in the PPI output price. However, the equity market did not react in consequence of the UK numbers, but was more attracted by the good US trade result. Although sterling lost ground against the dollar, it gained against the European currencies helped by expectations of higher interest rates and the recent rise in crude oil prices.

Retail sales rose 0.5 per cent in August instead of 0.2 per cent forecast.

PPI output price rose 0.9 per cent in August instead of 0.2 per cent expected. The annual rate of August was up to 4.9 per cent from 4.7 per cent in July.

PPI input fell slightly in

August. The annual rate of increase fell to 3.9 per cent in August from 4.3 per cent in July.

Industrial production increased by a seasonally-adjusted 0.4 per cent in July after a downward revised 0.4 per cent rise in June.

Average earnings increased by 9.0 per cent in the year to July after an upward revised 1.75 per cent in June.

Unemployment fell to 8.0 per cent in August, down from 8.2 per cent in July. The number of people unemployed was 948,000.

Public sector borrowing requirement was in surplus by £1,465 million in August. For the first five months of fiscal year 1988/89 the government's PSBR was in surplus by £4.6 billion compared with a deficit of £1.7 billion over the same period a year ago.

Overheating
Retail price index rose by 1.1 per cent in August to an annual rate of 5.7 per cent.

Current account deficit widened to £2.9 billion in the second quarter 1988 after a deficit of £2.8 billion in the first quarter.

The strong UK economic figures continue to indicate that the economy is probably overheating. Inflation is therefore of great concern and further action

to stem demand is expected.

A rise in base rates to 13 per cent, possibly 14 per cent, cannot be ruled out. As a consequence this is likely to give sufficient support to sterling for the interim.

Longer term with a current account deficit representing 3 per cent of GNP a decline in the pound's value is inevitable.

Despite gains last week both the equity and bond markets can be expected to be adversely impacted by expectations of inordinately high rates of interest.

Trading ranges for the coming week are: DM 3.11-3.15, £/S 1.65-1.71.

Subdued
Despite the Bundesbank's concerns inflation remains subdued. Wholesale prices rose just 1.1 per cent on the year to July following from 1.2 per cent in June. However, the Bundesbank's tight monetary stance is likely to remain unchanged for the present.

Japan's merchandise trade surplus fell by 4 per cent in August from a year earlier to \$4.9 billion. Wholesale prices rose 27.3 per cent to \$45.9 billion, exports increased by 18.2 per cent to \$50.8 billion.

Provided by NBK weekly market review

Peebles to acquire US department store chain

INVESTCORP has announced that Peebles, Inc., a 39-outlet department store chain headquartered in South Hill, Virginia which is owned by Investcorp, a group of international investors arranged by Investcorp, and Peebles management, has acquired Harvey's Department Stores, a Nashville-based company of nine department stores. The purchase price has not been disclosed.

Robert V. Glaser, a member of the Investcorp's management committee has said: "We are pleased with the continued growth of Peebles. With the acquisition of Harvey's, Peebles has grown from \$75 million revenues in 1986 to an estimated \$140 million today."

Credit
NatWest USA Credit Corporation provided the financing to Peebles for the acquisition by increasing its previously existing revolving credit facilities.

The Harvey's stores will continue to operate under the Harvey's name until later this year when all stores will change their name to Peebles.

Some of Investcorp's other US corporate investment have included: Tiffany & Co., the renowned New York jeweller; Dellwood Foods, Inc., one of the largest New York Metropolitan area milk product processors and distributors; Mueller Co., a leading manufacturer of fluid flow control devices for water and gas systems; Bertram and Trojan Yachts, leading US boat manufacturing companies; Peebles Inc., a department store chain based in Virginia; Club Car Inc., a golf cart manufacturer in Georgia; Burnham Service Corporation, a leading US distribution and transportation organisation.

World Bank loan for Egypt

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18, (Reuters). The World Bank said yesterday it approved a \$36 million loan to Egypt.

Egypt will use the loan to repair and expand the water-supply system in the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria, the bank said.

Trade growth enables US to ease deficit without hurting others

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18, (AP). Growth in world trade has enabled the United States to ease its trade deficit without hurting the exports of other nations, the World Bank said today in its annual review of the global economy.

Wealthy countries have enjoyed a steady rate of moderate growth in output and low inflation, but the growth rate slowed in developing countries, partly because of continued problems in sub-Saharan Africa and drought in India, the bank said.

Among the highlights in the report:

— Japan is making a "major contribution" to stimulating other economies.

— Inflation still could return to the major industrial countries and should be monitored carefully.

— Third World debt increased again in 1987, but some progress has been made in finding ways to reduce the burden.

— Trade protectionism remains a cause for concern.

"Output growth and inflation in the seven largest industrial countries — Canada, France, the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States — each averaged about three per cent in 1987," the report said.

But the economies of sub-Saharan Africa and other heavily indebted countries, mainly in Latin America, on average grew more slowly than the population, resulting in a decline in per-capita income for those nations, it said.

Expansion

By mid-1988 economic activity was increasing, and the World Bank revised upward its forecast for economic growth this year of the industrial countries to 3.5 per cent from the 2.4 per cent projected last December, Francisco Aguirre-Sacasa, the bank's director of external

relations, told reporters.

"The expansion in the industrial countries has had and is having a beneficial impact on growth in the developing nations," Aguirre-Sacasa said.

But the report said governments should watch for signs of increasing inflation because of growth in the money supply as well as declines in investment capital and unemployment.

The report said the United States was in a "much-improved competitive position," with the value of the dollar having dropped more than 50 per cent against the West German mark and the Japanese yen over the past two years.

The dollar's drop effectively halved the price of its exports in competition with German and Japanese exports.

Nonetheless, the report said, the US successes in reducing its trade deficit by increasing exports "are not being offset by decreases in exports elsewhere."

Current account surplus drops

(Continued from Page 10)

The five most important sources of Kuwait's total imports, in descending order, are: Japan, the USA, West Germany, the UK, and Italy, with shares of 21.2 per cent, 10.8 per cent, 8.1 per cent, 8.0 per cent and 6.2 per cent in total imports respectively.

During 1987 depreciation of currencies of South Korea, Holland, Hong Kong and Thailand, against the Kuwaiti dinar, have led these countries to improve their standings in the list of the most important exporters to Kuwait, ranking from seventh to tenth positions respectively with 3.8 per cent, 2.5 per cent, 1.7 per cent, 1.5 per cent, share in Kuwaiti imports successively.

The value of Kuwait's total trade (exports and imports) with the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries reached KD 195.1 million 1987, i.e. 5.4 per cent of Kuwait's total trade with the outside world.

Kuwait's trade with the GCC countries is concentrated in three commodity groups: animal and agricultural products, industrial products and natural products, which include all raw materials before being processed.

This classification also

includes commodities imported from abroad to be re-exported to neighbouring countries. Industrial products are the main component of Kuwait's trade with the GCC countries as they account for 80 per cent of Kuwait's imports from the GCC countries and 90 per cent of Kuwait's exports to these countries.

Meanwhile the total of both animal and agricultural products and natural products account for the remaining ratio.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are the most important trade partners of Kuwait in the GCC, as trade with them constitutes 90 per cent of total trade between Kuwait and the GCC.

Exports

These two countries get 66.9 per cent 21.8 per cent respectively of Kuwait's exports to the GCC, while Kuwait imports from them 43.1 per cent and 41.1 per cent, respectively, of its total imports from the GCC.

The value of Kuwait total exports to other countries of the GCC in 1987 totalled about KD 73.1 million against KD 95.1 million in the preceding year. This decline is attributed to a

number of factors, among which are the developments taking place in other GCC countries such as setting up of commercial sea-ports and expansion of other ports with well developed services of loading, unloading and simplified customs procedures provided to customers.

Other factors include the establishment of free trade zones such as the Jabel Ali zone in Dubai. As for the value of Kuwait total imports from the GCC countries in 1987, it increased to KD 122 million, compared with KD 81 million in 1986.

It is worth pointing out the significance of examining the effects of these developments on the role and future of Kuwait trade with the GCC countries.

This requires all those concerned with the domestic industrial sector to discuss and investigate the major problems and obstacles facing domestic and regional marketing of their products, to draw up solutions and recommendations necessary for boosting the competitiveness of domestic products, and enhance Kuwait's role in regional re-export trade.

Egypt cuts oil prices

CAIRO, Sept. 18, (AP). Egypt decided on Thursday to lower export prices of all its blends of oil by 75 cents a barrel, the Oil Ministry said.

The drop, the third in a row since an increase on July 31, reflected excessive oil supply on the world market, said Hammam Ayoub, the ministry's foreign sales director.

Top grade Gulf of Suez crude dropped to \$12 a barrel from \$12.75; Belayim to \$11.15 from \$11.90; Ras Badran to \$10 from \$10.75 and Ras Ghareb to \$9.70 a barrel from \$10.45.

The new prices will remain in effect until the end of the month. The Oil Ministry reserves prices every 15 days and sets them according to world market conditions. Egypt is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries but generally follows OPEC pricing guidelines.

GOVERNMENT TENDERS

Ministry of Education
Bidding No. PB/19-88/89 — Supply of curtains for school theatres

The Ministry hereby announces the above bidding in conformity with the conditions and specifications provided in the bidding documents. Those interested may call on Suppliers & Stores Department, Tenders Control, during office hours to collect the bidding documents against a non-refundable fee of KD/3/- within 14 days from the date of this notice.

Ministry of Interior
Bidding No. 4-88/88 — Supply of clothes and requirements for the ministry

The Ministry of Interior announces the above tender in conformity with the conditions and specifications provided in the tender documents. All merchants registered in the Suppliers Register at the ministry and interested to take part in the above tender may contact the Tenders & Contracts Dept. at the General Adm. of Financial Affairs accompanied with receipt of register to collect the documents of the said tender against a non-refundable fee of KD100/-.

The closing date for submitting offers shall be 12 noon, Saturday, 15.10.1988.

Kuwait University
Tender No. 19-1987/88 — Construction works of cooling tower at the Faculty of Science, Khaldiya

The Kuwait University hereby invites the above public tender. Tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the Supplies & Stores

KUWAIT

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GULF BANK	0.415	0.420	0.420	0.415	320000	10
COMMERCIAL BK	0.315	0.315	0.315	0.315	370000	19
AHLI BANK	0.380	0.380	0.380	0.380	10000	1
B.K.M.E.	0.385					
K.R.E.B.	0.420					
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INVESTMENT SECTOR						
KUT INV. CO.	0.158					
K.F.T.C.I.C.	0.210					
K.T.I.C.	0.154	0.152	0.152	0.152	60000	1
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N.C.C. CO.	0.190					
KUT HOTELS CO.	0.170					
WAREHOUSING	0.164	0.162	0.162	0.162	40000	2
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MOBILE TELX.	0.385	0.380	0.380	0.380	30000	1
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KUT FOODS	0.360	0.370	0.370	0.370	10000	1
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BNH.INTER.BK	0.068	0.068	0.068	0.068	160000	2
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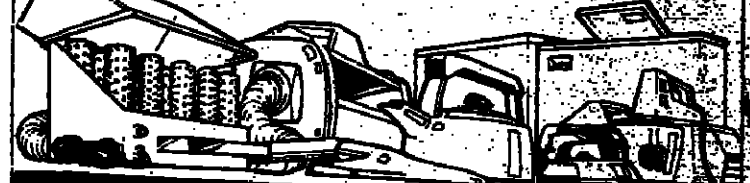
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ہے چچ ہیں | تین کواکب کے مقابلہ میں

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SOVIETS EDGE INDIA, SOUTH KOREA HOLD BRITAIN

Pakistan fight back to overwhelm Spain

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Pakistan made an impressive start to the defence of their Olympic men's hockey title today, beating Spain 5-1 in a Group A match at Songnam.

But India, the other Asian giants, eight times gold medalists, were beaten in the opening match of the tournament. They lost a Group B game 1-0 to the Soviet Union, the fourth-ranked European side.

The only other time India have lost their opening Olympic game was against New Zealand in 1976.

The Russians marked the Indians tightly and when they did elude the shackles, they failed to profit. They also failed to make anything of four first-half penalty corners and five in all.

Striker
The only goal was brilliantly taken by Igor Davydov, the 22-year-old Russian striker, in the fifth minute.

Pakistan struggled against Spain in the first half and trailed 1-0 to a fine corner goal by Juan Peon.

Two goals in a minute, early in the second half, turned the game Pakistan's way. Their five open play goals were scored by Qamar Ibrahim (two), Zahid Sharif (two) and Tariq Sheikh.

The second half was punctuated by two unpleasant flareups between the players.

Asian champions South Korea caused a major upset by holding second seeds Britain to a 2-2 draw in their opening Group B match.

The Koreans, seeded only 10th, were not fancied after losing 4-0 to Britain in Malaysia in June — among nine successive defeats.

But they showed a return to form and were unlucky to trail by two goals early in the second half. Sean Kerly scored a splendid goal, his 50th for Britain, to give his side the lead, with Paul Barber adding the second from a penalty corner.

South Korea replied through Kim Jong-Kap and Kim Man-Whe.

Netherlands also scored five goals in their Group A victory over Argentina but the day's leading scorers were top seeds and world champions Australia, who thrashed African title-holders Kenya, 7-1 in Group A. Centre-forward Mark Hager hit a hat-trick.

West Germany trailed Canada in Group B but recovered to win 3-1. Carsten Fischer (penalty corner), Stefan Blocher and Thomas Reck were on target.



Davydov (right): got the winner for Soviets

Later Pargat Singh, who plays left back for India, pointed to the artificial grass pitch at the Songnam stadium and sighed. "That's the main reason India is no longer the best hockey nation in the world," he explained.

"Not because of that pitch itself, but because in the whole of India, a land of 1,000 million, there are only three artificial hockey pitches.

"I come from the Punjab and

we have some sports facilities, they are good but there are not enough of them. We have fallen behind the rest of the world," Pargat explained.

"Now the Indians will struggle to make the semifinals of the men's hockey tournament here. That was once unthinkable."

India won every Olympic hockey gold medal from 1928 to 1956. During that period it achieved a world record inter-

national score, beating the United States 24-1 in 1932.

It won 30 consecutive Olympic matches between 1928 and 1960 when it lost the final to arch-rival Pakistan. During that golden era it scored 102 goals and conceded only eight.

In the last two decades its fortunes have declined, the only bright moments coming when it won the 1975 World Cup in Kuala Lumpur and the gold medal in the boycotted Olympics in 1980.

Khalid Ansari, a publisher and newspaper magnate who has followed Indian hockey all his life, watched today's defeat and said, "I utterly despair."

"We have an old fashioned, overpriced style. We are still persevering with a technique that is 25 years out-of-date and we ought to crush our national ego and employ overseas coaches."

"Everyone else in the world copied our style and improved on it. We just remained static."

While India's star has faded, that of neighbouring Pakistan has continued to rise. Its new, young team defending the Olympic title won in Los Angeles is seeded fifth.

Even though there are only two artificial pitches in Pakistan, its players have constantly

developed their technique on a variety of surfaces.

Today they overcame their first half nerves to overwhelm the Spaniards with superior control and teamwork by the final whistle.

The victory is a significant one. Four days before the team left for Seoul, manager Khalid Mahmood resigned after a row with Brigadier Manzoor Atif, the secretary-general of the Pakistan Hockey Federation, and one of the most powerful men in the sport worldwide.

Atif appointed Ishtiaq Ahmed as manager but his preparations were hit when two gold medal winners from Los Angeles were ruled out of the opening game through illness and injury.

Ishtiaq Ahmed is in hospital in Seoul suffering from a viral infection and Khalid Hameed injured his knee in a training game. They will miss Tuesday's match against Kenya, but could play against Argentina on Thursday.

"Despite all the problems I am a very happy man now," said a beaming Ishtiaq Ahmed moments after his team's victory.

"We are the youngest team here, we have a lot to learn, but this is marvellous for our confidence."

Edberg and Graf face smooth path to gold

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): With Steffi Graf on sparkling form and Stefan Edberg facing only modest competition, tennis at the Seoul Olympics is in danger of becoming little more than the demonstration event it was in Los Angeles four years ago.

Four top players have pulled out of the men's singles tournament, virtually guaranteeing Wimbledon champion Edberg the gold medal barring a major upset.

And despite a stronger women's draw, Graf, fresh from the US Open victory which gave her the Grand Slam, is expected to produce her usual unstoppable form, sweeping aside ruthlessly all those in her path to the podium.

The two players won the singles when tennis returned to the Olympics as a demonstration event in 1984. It last featured as a medal sport in the 1924 Paris Games.

Critics
Tennis officials are delighted that the sport and its professional players have been brought into the Olympic fold — albeit on a trial basis — but critics say the weakened men's draw gives the event little status.

Edberg, the top seed in Seoul, will face only two other players from the world's top 10 — Czechoslovak Miloslav Mecir and American Tim Mayotte — in the men's tournament starting on Tuesday.

The Swede, ranked third in the world, says he most fears Mecir, the world's number 10.

He also has to recover his confidence after failing to reach the quarterfinals of the US Open two weeks ago. The windy conditions in New York caused him problems and he went out in five sets to American Aaron Krickstein.

"I put in a lot of work at the US Open and I didn't make it," Edberg said. "But I think I have got a good chance here."

With Edberg's compatriot Mats Wilander, the world number one, West German Boris Becker and Ecuador's Andres Gomez out because of injury, the men's tournament on the hard courts of the Olympic Park has lost much of its glamour.

But at least organisers were cheered by the late confirmation that Frenchman Henri Leconte, the world number 12, would be coming. He was due to arrive today straight from the Spanish Grand Prix where he failed to reach the semifinals.

Top-ranked
The withdrawals have broadened American hopes of at least one bronze medal. Tim Mayotte, ninth in the world, and Brad Gilbert, 15th, are among the top-ranked players left in the event.

Bronze medals will be awarded to both losing semifinalists. On paper at least, Graf, the first Grand Slam winner since 1970, faces tougher competition with seven of the world's top 10 women in the 48-strong draw for their event which begins on Wednesday.

But this year only Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina has beaten the West German. American Chris Evert, 14 years older than Graf at 33, has yet to take a set off the formidable teenager.

Graf hurt her left knee during practice yesterday but dismissed the injury as trivial. "There is absolutely no danger of me pulling out," she said.

All 12 women's seeds have been given a first-round bye, meaning Graf will not be in action until Friday at the earliest.

Prospects
Young players Natalia Zvereva and Arantxa Sanchez could be good bronze prospects. The 17-year-old Zvereva, from the Soviet Union, was a finalist at the French Open and has beaten American Martina Navratilova absent from Seoul — twice this year.

Sanchez, sister of Spain's Emilio and Javier Sanchez, is still only 16 but made her mark by defeating Evert in Paris.

The United States' hopes of getting a gold medal sweep — as they did 64 years ago — are dim but they have a strong chance in the men's doubles at least, with Ken Flach and Robert Seguso, who are unbeaten in Davis Cup play.

In the women's doubles, which features just 14 pairs, Graf teams up with Claudia Kohde-Kilsch for West Germany while Evert joins Pam Shriver.

Navratilova regrets Olympics decision
SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): World number two Martina Navratilova, regretted her decision not to enter the Olympic tennis tournament, her doubles partner Pam Shriver said today.

"I spoke to her at the US Open and I can tell you that she had second thoughts and possibly some regret," said Shriver, the fourth seed in the Olympic event.

Soviet gymnasts on way to team title

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Vladimir Artemov scored the first perfect mark of the Olympic gymnastics tournament today as the Soviet Union built a seemingly unassailable lead in the men's team competition.

Artemov's score of 10 on the parallel bars, the last piece of apparatus the Soviet Union had to tackle, completed a near flawless performance by their entire squad in the compulsory exercises, the first half of the team event.

Ahead
The lowest score by any member of the six-man Soviet team on any apparatus was 9.650. Artemov edged ahead of compatriot and world all-round champion Dmitri Bilozerchev in the individual standings going into Tuesday's optional exercises at the end of which the team medals will be awarded.

The Soviet Union ran up a total of 295.700 points to lead at the halfway mark of the competition from East Germany, who scored 293.550. Japan were third on 292.650.

China, runners-up in last year's World Championships behind the Soviet Union and expected to challenge for the gold, slipped out of contention as stars Li Ning and Lou Yen paid heavily for early mistakes.



Bilozerchev goes through his routine on the rings.

(Reuters wirephoto)

on 292.650.

The Chinese recovered on the last two pieces of apparatus, the horizontal bar and their traditional speciality, the floor exercise, but by then the Soviet Union — drawn to compete in the same group — were well in control.

China ended the day fourth on 291.400 points, with Bulgaria fifth and Hungary sixth.

Artemov collected 59.400 points to head three Soviet gymnasts in the top individual placings. Bilozerchev was close behind with 59.350 and European champion Valery Luikin was third on 59.15.

Part of each gymnast's scores carry forward for the individual all-round competition as well as counting for the team event.

East Germany's seven titlist was the highest-placed non-Soviet, lying fourth with 59.05 points and just ahead of Japan's fifth-placed Yukio Iketani on 58.900.

The United States, with only one surviving member of the team that won the 1984 team title in Los Angeles, were last of the 12 teams who completed the compulsory exercises.

The women's team event begins tomorrow with Romania's reigning world champions and the Soviet Union expected to battle closely for supremacy.

Australia surprise Yugoslavia

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Emerging soccer nations Australia and the United States turned the form book upside down in the Olympic tournament today.

Australia beat 1984 Los Angeles bronze medalists Yugoslavia 1-0 in Group D thanks to a well-taken goal by Frank Farina after 50 minutes.

The United States, anxious to groom a team of some stature for the 1994 World Cup finals which they will host, were denied a 1-0 victory by an 83rd minute penalty equaliser in their tie against Argentina in Group C.

After coming close to breaking the deadlock twice, the Americans went ahead through substitute Michael Windischmann in the 78th minute.

Converted

In a late assault to save some face, Argentina, missing seven players because of club commitments, were awarded a penalty which Carlos Alfaro Moreno converted confidently.

Brazil had some shaky moments in the first half of their Group D match with Nigeria and were lucky not to fall behind.

The South Americans were

more direct in the second half and exploited huge gaps in the Nigerian defence to secure a 4-0 victory.

Asian Games champions South Korea, spurred by the promise of \$14,000 a man if they win the gold medal, drew 0-0 with the Soviet Union in Group C.

Sweden's Jonas Thern and Tunisia's Jameleddine Limam, sent off during yesterday's Group A game, were banned for the two remaining qualifying matches by an International Football Federation (FIFA) disciplinary committee today. The match ended in a 2-2 draw.

British throwers recovering

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Britain's beleaguered women javelin throwers — world champion Fatima Whitbread and Olympic gold medalist Tessa Sanderson — are responding well to treatment for injuries, team officials said today.

No decision has been made on whether Sanderson will be able to complete in her fourth Olympics after gassing her ankle last week at the team's training camp in Japan.

But former world record holder Whitbread was in no danger of missing next Sunday's javelin

qualifying round after receiving treatment for a trapped shoulder nerve, they added.

British women's assistant team manager Joan Allison said from Japan that Sanderson, 32, was off crutches and walking unaided at the camp. But she said Sanderson had not run on the leg or thrown since the injury, which needed two stitches, and it was not known when she would resume full training.

Tony Ward, British Amateur Athletics Board (BAAB) spokesman said Sanderson was due to travel to Seoul tomorrow.

Olympic ideal

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): The International Olympic Committee and the United Nations will join forces to crack down on doping in sport and protect the Olympic ideal, officials said today.

IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch said ministers of sports and culture from member countries of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) would meet in Moscow next month to strengthen co-operation.

World champions to meet in early showdown

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Reigning world champion Thomas Lange of East Germany faces an early showdown with four times world title-winner Peter-Michael Kolbe of West Germany in the single sculls heats of the Olympic rowing regatta tomorrow.

Today's draw pitched the veteran Kolbe against 24-year-old Lange, who beat both Kolbe and Olympic champion Pertti Karppinen of Finland in a shock world single sculls triumph last year.

Only the winner from each of the four heats goes directly into the semifinals so either Kolbe or Lange must race again in a repechage in a bid to reach the last four.

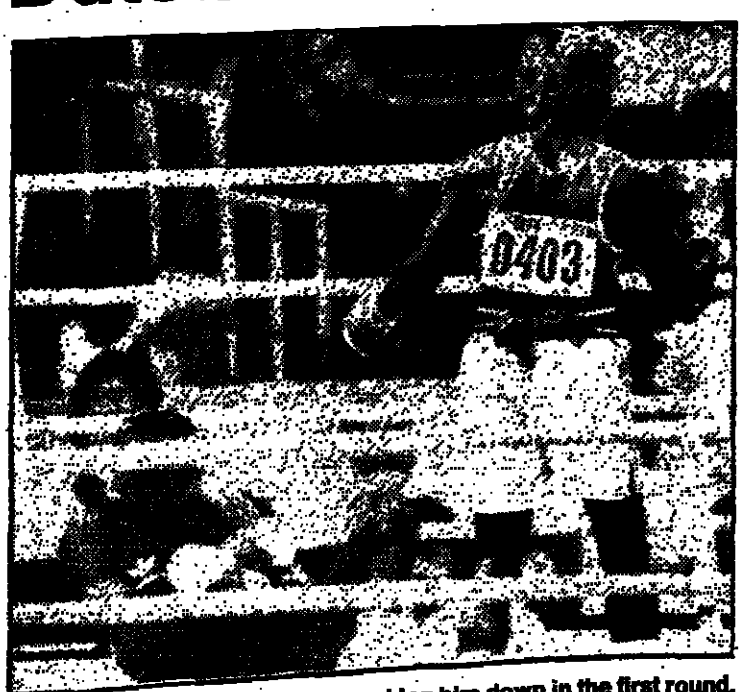
Dominated

Karppinen, chasing his fourth consecutive Olympic gold, and Kolbe, both 35, have dominated the event for the last decade.

Karppinen was drawn in a much easier heat against less-fancied scullers and should qualify easily.

"It's a tough one," West German team coach Klaus Walkenhorst said after the draw, held at the Han River regatta course 12 kms east of Seoul. "Kolbe should get through in the end but it could well mean an extra race."

Dutchman knocks out world flyweight champion



Tuur stands over Banks after knocking him down in the first round. (Reuters wirephoto)

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Dutch featherweight (57 kg) Regilio Tuur threw the punch of a lifetime today to knock out US medal favourite Kelcie Banks in the first round of an Olympic preliminary bout.

Banks, the world amateur champion, lay senseless on the canvas for about three minutes after Tuur floored him with a swinging right.

Stagger
Doctors surrounded the prostrate American. He finally managed to stagger to his feet and walk groggily from the arena.

The Dutchman, of Surinamese descent, will now meet Kenya's John Wanjau in the next round.

Wanjau pulled off the other surprise of the evening session with a well-deserved 3-2 points win over Laszlo Szoke, a powerful Hungarian.

The shock defeat of Banks spoiled an otherwise good start by the Americans who saw

flyweight Arthur Johnson easily outpoint Andrea Mannai of Italy.

Latin America's main hopes for a medal were dashed by the points defeat of David Griman by Bulgarian teenager Serafim Todorov.

Many fans and commentators thought Griman, runner-up in the last World Championships, had done enough to scrape to a win against the skilful but backpedalling East European.

South Korean Kim Kwang-Sun and American Arthur Johnson also won and are on course for a potential explosive collision before the quarterfinals.

Kim was joined in the next round by his featherweight compatriot Lee Jae-Hyuk who stormed his way to a whitewash points victory over Mexican Miguel Gonzalez.

Soviet flyweight (51 kg) Timofei Skriabin also won and the Bulgarians continued their good progress with feather-

weight Kirkor Kirkorov beating East Germany's Diego Drumm 5-0 to join two fellow countrymen in the next rounds.

The two-week competition has attracted a record 440 boxers from 107 countries and the organisers are using two rings to complete the bouts in time.

Check-up

Tuur, the European bronze medalist, said Banks had been asking for trouble. "He looked a bit arrogant to me. He came out from his corner like a fool."

"People had said it was a bad draw for me but it turned out to be bad for him," Tuur added.

Banks, a tall, classy fighter who was expected to win a medal and then turn professional, was taken to hospital for a precautionary check-up.

"He didn't see the punch coming or he maybe thought he could get away from it," said US coach Ken Adams. "But he sure learned one lesson tonight — to keep his hands up in future."

East Germans hold off Poles for cycling gold

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): East German cyclists held off a late assault by Poland to win the gold medal in the men's Olympic 100km team time trial today.

The Poles, trying desperately to close a 30-second deficit going into the final 25 km, finished seven seconds adrift of the East Germans who were never headed and took the title in one hour 57 minutes 47 seconds.

Through

Sweden were the surprise bronze medalists, forcing their way through the field from eighth place over the last quarter and clocking 1:59.47.

Defending Olympic champions Italy, fielding the same squad that won the 100 km team time trial at the World Championships in Austria last year, faded at the end and were pushed

into fifth place by France.

The East Germans, Olympic silver medalists in 1980 and world champions the following year, set out strongly from the start.

East German team member Mark Landsmann said afterwards: "It was a big advantage to start behind Italy and France."

"We knew they had prepared very carefully for these Games and it was a great boost for us when we were given a time check halfway through and found we were up on both teams."

There was special joy for another member of the team, Jan Schur, whose gold completed a unique set for his family.

His father, Gustav Schur, won a bronze in the Melbourne Olympics in 1956 and the silver four years later in the individual road race at the Rome Games.

COMMUNIST COUNTRIES TAKE FIRST FIVE GOLDS

Marinov breaks two world records

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Bulgarian weightlifter Sevdalin Marinov capped a communist field day at the Olympics Games today with two world records on his way to the gold medal.

The European champion's victory completed a sweep for communist countries who scooped up the first five gold medals of the Games.

Marinov lifted a world record total of 270 kg in the flyweight (52 kg) category including a record 120 kg for the snatch, the first world mark of the Games.

Previous champion He Zhuoqiang of China, who held the previous records of 267.5 kg and 119.5, had to be content with the bronze behind South Korean Chun Byung-Kwan, whose silver gave the host country its first medal of the Seoul Games.

Irina Chulova of the Soviet Union set the pace by winning in the women's air rifle competition, the first gold medal to be awarded at the Seoul Games.

Chinese teenager Xu Yanmei beat American Michele Mitchell and homelickness in the women's highboard diving. Romanian Sorin Babiu won the men's free pistol and East Germany cycled to victory in the men's 100-km team time trial.

The United States could boast only two medals from four finals events with Mitchell on Silver



Marinov raises his arms after breaking world records and winning his event. (Reuters wirephoto)



Xu (centre), Mitchell (left) and Williams on the victory podium. (Reuters wirephoto)

and team mate Wendy Williams on bronze in the highboard diving.

The Americans have brought 612 athletes to Seoul, the biggest team of a record field.

The Games will pit the best from East and West against each other for the first time since 1976. The Soviet Union led an East-bloc boycott of Los Angeles in 1984 and the US and other Western countries snubbed Moscow in 1980.

Xu, 17, went into the final round leading Mitchell by less than one point.

The Chinese national cham-

pion jumped first and pulled off a superb piked 3-1/2 somersault dive to collect 68.75 points.

Mitchell tried 3-1/2 somersaults tucked but failed to enter the water cleanly and scored just 60.75 points.

American disappointment at missing the gold was lessened by Wendy Williams picking up the bronze after that also seemed destined for Chinese hands.

Chen Xiaodan, who won yesterday's qualifying competition, could perhaps have grabbed silver if she had performed creditably with her final dive, the last and most difficult in the competition.

But her backward 3-1/2 somersaults went disastrously wrong and Chinese hopes disappeared in a huge cloud of spray as the tiny 14-year-old snatched into the water.

Xu finished with 445.20 points, Mitchell with 436.95 and Williams 400.44.

Xu told a press conference she had been determined to improve on her performance in qualifying when she had finished third.

"Yesterday I did not do well in one or two dives. But today I composed myself. I'm very happy and excited now," said Xu, who won the FINA World Cup title last year.

"I believe in my own ability and I know that I am a very strong diver," she added.



Lewis gestures as he vents his frustrations while talking to Huntsman. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lewis rages at coach

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Olympic champion Carl Lewis raged at American coaching officials today as the tension told in the countdown to his 100 metres clash with Canadian world record holder Ben Johnson.

Lewis rounded on US head coach Stan Huntsman in a "show of frustration" caused by the commotion at the track, US athletics official Hal Bateman said.

"It was probably a bit of pre-Olympic jitters."

The incident happened at the same track in the athletes' village where Lewis was mobbed by photographers on Friday and forced to retreat to a quieter venue.

Lewis, who won four gold medals at the Los Angeles Games, was working on his starts with training partner and club

colleague Joe DeLoach when he turned to Huntsman and gave vent to his feelings.

Bateman said: "It was of no great consequence. There was something about the facilities he didn't care about. Something wasn't going quite right."

The incident was quickly forgotten and Lewis remained at the track for another 90 minutes to complete his workout before leaving in good spirits, Bateman added.

Lewis, seeking to repeat his sweep of four gold medals here, is due to meet world champion Johnson in Saturday's 100 metres final.

He is expected to compete in the long jump final next Monday, the 200 metres final next Wednesday and the 4x100 metres relay next Saturday — the penultimate day of the Games.

Horses upset riders and form book

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Bad-tempered horses upset the form book and left riders nursing more than bruised pride on the first day of the modern pentathlon at the Olympics today.

With horses refusing jumps, crashing into them, unseating their riders and sometimes just refusing to move, rank outsiders Egypt took the lead in the five-day competition.

The Egyptian team drew some of the better behaved mounts while the Soviet Union, favourites for the team and individual gold medals, were restricted to mediocre scores by their unruly horses.

The top individual scorer after the 15-jump competition was Australia's Alexander Watson, also previously untried.

The British team finished fourth, indicating that they had been lucky with the random draw.

But team manager Ron Bright said of the Italian and West German horses supplied for the event: "They are the worst set of horses I have ever seen in an Olympic Games."

Soviet team manager Lev Matouchenko, his squad in 14th place instead of leading as anticipated, said the horses had been trained for showjumping not for pentathlon, where riders are expected to compete on unfamiliar mounts.

The modern pentathlon comprises riding, fencing, swimming, shooting and running competitions.

The United States saw their medal hopes dashed after two disastrous rounds which earned them only 470 points out of a possible 2,200.

Yugoslavs stun Soviets in opener

SEOUL, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Yugoslavia crushed arch-rivals the Soviet Union 92-79 in a battle of prospective medalists in the Olympic men's basketball competition today.

Defending champions United States trounced Spain, the 1984 silver medalists, by 97-53. And the Central African Republic, playing their first Olympic basketball game, beat host country South Korea 73-70 after roaring ahead to 47-30 at half-time.

A last-second three-point shot by Korean Kim Hyun-Jun bounced off the rim. The Africans

celebrated wildly on court for five minutes, hugging each other and wrapping themselves in the national flag.

The Yugoslavs plodded for the first 10 minutes of their game against the Soviet Union, then opened up the court by substituting their backcourtmen.

After trailing by as much as 12, playmaker Zelimir Obradovic and shooting guard Drazen Petrovic ignited the attack and opened things up inside for Zarko Paspalj to give them a 39-33 halftime lead.

Outside sharpshooting in the

second half, particularly from Petrovic, allowed the Yugoslavs to exact sweet revenge for the Russians' comeback wins in the last world and European championships.

The Soviet star centre Arvidas Sabonis, still recovering from a ruptured achilles tendon, was missing from the starting lineup. The rugged 2.23-metre tall player came on after 10 minutes but failed to show his usual agility.

Petrovic led the Yugoslav scoring with 25 points and Paspalj added 20. Shavunas Marchulonis and Titi Sokk both

scored 20 for the Soviets, while Sabonis was held to just 11.

The Central African Republic took advantage of some dreadful shooting by South Korea to take a commanding lead at half-time. But in the second half the Koreans found their touch from outside, delighting the packed crowd at Chamsil gymnasium but just failing to do enough.

The men's competition takes a break on Monday when the women begin their tournament. Defending champions United States play Czechoslovakia in their opening game.

Stephenson makes history

LONDON, Sept. 18, (Reuters): West Indian Franklyn Stephenson completed the finest individual all-round performance in a cricket match for 82 years yesterday — and still lost.

On the final day of the English county season, playing for Nottinghamshire against Yorkshire, Stephenson scored a spectacular 117 in 137 minutes off 119 balls, with 20 four and two sixes.

This followed his first innings score of 111 and bowling figures of four for 103 and seven for 117. He became only the third man

in the sport's history to score two centuries and take more than 10 wickets in a game. The last man to achieve the feat was Somerset's George Hirst in 1906 — also against Yorkshire.

Season It was a sparkling finale to the championship, clinched on Friday by Worcestershire who edged Kent into second place by one point.

Stephenson's one-man show also saw him complete the double of 1,000 runs and 100 wickets

in a season. He is the first man to do so since New Zealander Richard Hadlee of Nottinghamshire in 1984 and only the second player to accomplish the feat since the fixture list was reduced in 1969.

Stephenson, named championship Player of the Year earlier this week, finished the season with 125 wickets and 1,018 runs.

Despite his feat, Yorkshire still won by 127 runs to collect maximum points for the first time this season.

Ballesteros takes title

ST NOM LA BRETECHE, France, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Severiano Ballesteros dawdled to his fourth victory in his last five starts today to all but lock up the European golf money-winning title for the year.

Ballesteros recorded a four-stroke win — the amount by which he led after his virtuoso opening round of 64 — with a final even-par round of 71 in the

Lancome Trophy golf tournament near Paris.

The British Open champion ended 15 under par on 269 to win £66,660 with his compatriot Jose-Maria Olazabal taking second place after a 69 for 273.

Ballesteros extended what was already a European record for official winnings in one year to £353,384.

Lancashire win

BIRMINGHAM, England, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Lancashire beat Worcestershire by 52 runs to win the final of the 40-overs-a-side English Sunday League Cricket Cup at Edgbaston.

Details: Lancashire 201 for five innings closed (T. Jesty 59, M. Watkinson 42 not out).

Worcestershire 149 in 35.5 overs (P. Neale 42, A. Hayhurst four for 46).

Miami edge past Michigan

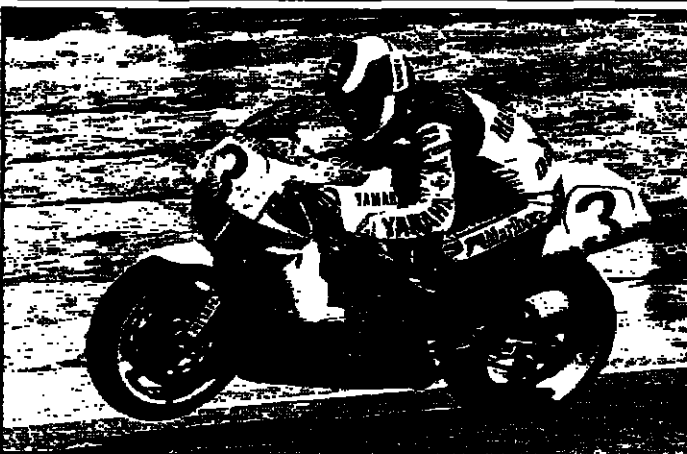
NEW YORK, Sept. 18, (AP): Steve Walsh passed for two touchdowns in the last five minutes as top-ranked Miami, Florida, overcame a 16-point deficit to beat No. 15 Michigan 31-30 yesterday.

"We've been in this situation before. We can come back and do it," Walsh said he told his teammates before the late rescue of the nation's longest winning streak, 14 games.

"We knew we could get out and score a touchdown," Walsh said. "One thing just led to another."

Results

Miami	31	Michigan	30
UCLA	56	Long Beach	3
Florida	24	Clemson	21
Oklahoma	28	Arizona	10
Auburn	56	Kansas	7
Georgia	42	Mississippi	35
Notre Dame	30	Michigan	3
Louisiana	34	Tennessee	9
S. Carolina	17	E. Carolina	0
Penn St.	23	Boston C	20
Washington	31	Army	17
Pittsburgh	42	Ohio	10
Colorado	24	Iowa	21



Lawson wins Brazilian GP

GOIANIA, Brazil, Sept. 18, (Reuters): American Eddie Lawson on a Yamaha wound up a golden season with a comfortable victory yesterday in the Brazilian 500 cc motorcycle Grand Prix, final event of the world championship.

Deposed champion Wayne Gardner of Australia, on a Honda, was second 13 seconds behind with American Kevin Schwantz third on a Suzuki.

Spain's Sito Pons, riding a Honda, clinched the world 250 cc title after finishing third to Dominique Sarron of France in the 250 cc race. His only rival for the crown, compatriot Juan

Garriga, could only finish fifth. Pons ended on 231 points to Garriga's 221.

It was Lawson's seventh victory of the season, making him the first rider to win more than six races in one year since Italian Giacomo Agostini won 11 in 1972.

Lawson, who had clinched his third world title in the Czechoslovak Grand Prix last month, now has a career record of 26 wins in the 500 cc class.

The American covered the 32 laps in 47 minutes 06.32 seconds for an average speed of 156.330 kph. He closed the season with 252 points, 23 clear of Gardner.

Agassi takes singles title

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida, Sept. 18, (AP): Andre Agassi won the men's singles title, and Barbara Potter and Kathy Rinaldi split the women's prize after cancellation of their final yesterday after a rain delay at the All-American Tennis Tournament.

Agassi, ranked No. 4 in the world, broke Dan Goldie's serve four times to beat the Stanford University champion 6-2, 7-5 in 73 minutes. The match at Amelia Island plantation was interrupted by a rain delay of more than 1-1/2 hours.

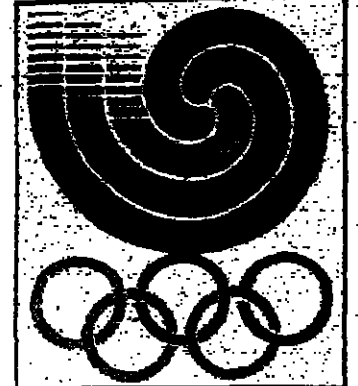
Agassi won \$50,000 to Goldie's \$30,000.

He also won the exhibition tournament last year.

Baseball results

NEW YORK, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday.

National League			
New York	6	Montreal	2
Los Angeles	4	Cincinnati	3
San Francisco	4	Houston	1
Chicago	7	Philadelphia	2
Pittsburgh	6	St. Louis	4
San Diego	9	Atlanta	4
Atlanta	6	San Diego	3
American League			
Boston	3	New York	1
Oakland	3	Kansas City	2
Detroit	7	Baltimore	3
Minnesota	3	Chicago	1
Cleveland	12	Toronto	3
Seattle	11	Milwaukee	4
Texas	7	California	0



OLYMPIC GAMES

American sprinter

AMERICAN sprinter Florence Griffith-Joyner says her makeup, fancy costumes and accessories on the track are not intended to kick off a fashion revolution among other female athletes. "It's not that I am trying to change anyone or change the sport," she said. "It's just something I enjoy doing."

Special stamps

OLYMPIC organisers are collecting the autographs of medal-winning athletes on specially issued giant stamps. The winners are signing enlarged versions of Olympic commemorative stamps symbolizing the motto of the 1988 Games, "Harmony and Progress."

Boxing coach

BECAUSE Olympic boxing coaches are prohibited from shouting instructions from their corner, US coach Ken Adams communicates with his fighters like a baseball catcher with his pitcher. Adams sticks his fingers over his head to suggest punches. "One finger is a jab, two a right, three a hook, four is an uppercut and five another kind of uppercut," Adams explained. "I have a lot more, too."

Cheering groups

OLYMPIC athletes from the farthest and poorest corners of the world do not expect to hear any cheers, but when they step into the sports arenas they'll find a selection of South Koreans yelling encouragement just like the folks back home. The largest South Korean business conglomerates have organised their employees into cheering groups for athletes.

Edwin Moses

UNLIKE many of the people here for the Olympics, Edwin Moses, the two-time Olympic champion in the 400-metre hurdles, has been unable to enjoy the pleasures of shopping in Istanbul or the sightseeing in this exotic city. "Everywhere I go I get mobbed," Moses said. "It's difficult for me. I'm not here to sightsee anyway. I'm here strictly on business."

Cram recovers

BRITAIN'S Steve Cram has fully recovered from the leg injury which threatened his hopes of landing the first Olympic middle-distance double in 24 years.

Big breakfast

VANUATU boxer Eduard Paululum flew for 18 hours across the Pacific, had a big breakfast and was disqualified from the Olympics yesterday for being 500 grams too heavy. "What a shame. I am very upset. This was the first time that Vanuatu had come to the Olympics," crestfallen team chief Jean Traut said today.

N. Korean reaction

NORTH KOREA, which failed to become joint host, slammed the Summer Olympics yesterday in Seoul as 'divisive' and 'dictatorial' today in its first reaction to the Games since their opening.

Tighter security

ROWING officials have asked for increased security at the Olympic regatta course boathouse after a team complained one of their boats was damaged.

US favoured

THE United States are again widely regarded as the strongest team at the Olympics, but the swirling waters of Suyong Bay make the yachting regatta starting tomorrow one of the most open events of the Games.

Ben Johnson

WORLD champion Ben Johnson warned his sprint rival Carl Lewis yesterday that he wants victory in their Olympic 100 metres showdown to dedicate to his mother and that the American will have to do the chasing.

Political snub

A GRECO-ROMAN wrestler from the Yemen Arab Republic failed to appear for his opening-round match against an Israeli at the Olympics yesterday. An official on Israel's team called the action a political snub.

Let Australians umpire, says Miandad

KARACHI, Sept. 18, (Reuters): Pakistani cricket captain Javed Miandad offered today to let the visiting Australian manager, coach or reserve players act as umpires amid rows over decisions and the state of the wicket in the first Test.

"If the Australians are still not happy, then it would be better for them to go home," Miandad told Reuters on the rest day of the match.

He accused the Australians of maligning Pakistani umpires and said the Karachi National stadium wicket was the same for both sides.

Defeat Australian manager Colin Egar protested publicly yesterday about the wicket and the judgement of umpire Mahboob Shah as his side slide towards a heavy defeat. With two days to go, Australia were 116 for seven in reply to Pakistan's first innings score of 469 for nine declared and needed another 154 runs to avoid the follow-on.

The row recalled England's bad-tempered tour last winter when their anger over the Pakistani umpiring culminated in a blazing argument between captain Mike Gatting and umpire Shakoor Rana.

Miandad, who scored 211 in



Miandad

Pakistan's innings, said Australia could appoint their manager and coach or even the reserve players as umpires. "We will play under their supervision and not utter a single word," he said.

Pakistan has led a campaign to introduce neutral umpires for international cricket matches and brought in Indian officials for two Tests against West Indies in 1986.

But England and other cricketing nations resisted the idea and Pakistan has not repeated

the experiment. "If they are determined to give a bad name to our country and our umpiring, then there is no point in playing cricket and it is better for them to go home," Miandad said.

He said Graham Wood had thrown a helmet at Pakistani players. "These are not good things when we hear about the great sportsmanship of the Australians."

Mohammad Zameer Khan, secretary of the Karachi Cricket Umpires Association, said the Australians were venting frustration over their poor performance in the first three days.

"I could not believe that Mr Colin Egar, who himself has been a Test umpire, would involve himself in tactics aimed at pressurizing the local umpires," he said in a statement.

Egar said the wicket at the start of the match was like one which had already seen at least three days' play. He said at least six decisions had gone against his side during the Pakistani innings and described yesterday's lbw decision against all-rounder Steve Waugh as "shocking."

He told reporters the Australian officials had asked Pakistani cricket authorities not to reappoint umpire Mahboob

Shah for the rest of the tour.

The wicket was tailor-made for spinners as Pakistan has the best spin attack in the world in the shape of Abdul Qadir, Iqbal Qasim, Tauseef Ahmad and others.

But Australia's slow bowlers were unable to exploit it, allowing Pakistan to amass a huge total.

The home team's spinners found the same wicket very much to their liking, reducing the visitors to 64 for six at one point. Qasim took four wickets, Qadir and Tauseef one each.

Avoid The Australian tail-enders face the impossible target tomorrow of reaching 269 to avoid the follow-on. Off-spinner Peter Taylor resumes on 22 and Tony Dodemaide on four. Bruce Reid and Tim May are still to bat.

The highest score of the innings so far was a dogged 26 by the debutant wicketkeeper Ian Healy, a controversial selection for the tour.

Pakistani officials have reacted calmly to Egar's request to drop Mahboob Shah from the panel of umpires for the rest of the 40-day tour.

Manager Intikhab Alam, however, commented: "I don't think the umpiring was bad."